F
864
.S72

Hon. R. M. La Follette,
M. C.

COMPLIMENTS OF
COL. J. D. STEVENSON.

Memorial and Petition

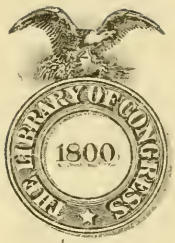
— OF —

COL. J. D. STEVENSON,

— OF —

CALIFORNIA.

J. R. BRODIE & CO., PRINTERS, 403 SANSOME ST., S. F.



Class F864
Book S72

Col. J. D. Stevenson.

MEMORIAL AND PETITION

— OF —

COL. J. D. STEVENSON

— OF —

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO:
J. R. Brodie & Co., Steam Printers, 401 and 403 Sansome Street.
1886.

IN EXCHANGE
Wis. Hist. Soc.
20 '05

30 H 1905 W.o.m.

Memorial and Petition of Col. J. D. Stevenson

— OF —

CALIFORNIA.

To the Honorable, the Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

In presenting a memorial asking for relief at your hands, I deem it proper to present, for your consideration, a brief sketch of my life, and services, both military and civil, that I have rendered to my government, the perpetuating and support of which has ever been my chief aim. Born on January 1st, 1800, of parents of undoubted loyalty to their country, I, at an early age, became imbued with that strong loyalty and love for my country and flag, that never has faltered, even in the darkest days that have shadowed our government. At the early age of twelve years, when our country was at war with England, I volunteered my services, and though I could not be accepted as a soldier, I headed and led a band of my school-fellows, who worked in the trenches of the fortifications thrown up on Long Island for the defense of New York City, at which time I attracted the attention Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, whose private secretary I became soon after his election to the Vice-Presidency of the United States. It was in this capacity that I, at an early date, made the acquaintance and gained the esteem and respect of all the prominent statesmen and higher officers of our government, which acquaintance I held during the years intervening before the Mexican war, and during which I was enabled to render many services, in a civil capacity, to both my native State of New York and the General Government at Washington. Upon the breaking out of the war between the United States and Mexico, I volunteered my services to my country, and suggested to President Polk the sending of an expedition to the Pacific Coast, the object and purpose of which is best given in the following official communications from the War Department, dated June 26th, 1846, and September 11th, 1846, and

extracts from the New York *Herald* of September 6th and 14th, 1846:

War Department,

Washington, D. C., June 26th, 1846.

Colonel J. D. Stevenson, New York City:

Sir—The President having determined to send a regiment of volunteers around Cape Horn to the Pacific, to be employed in prosecuting hostilities in some province of Mexico, probably in Upper California, has authorized me to say, that if you will organize one on the conditions herewith specified, and tender its services, it will be accepted. It is proper it should be done with the approbation of the Governor of New York. The President expects, and indeed requires, that great care should be taken to have it composed of suitable persons. I mean persons of good habits, as far as practicable, of various pursuits, and such as would be likely to desire to remain at the end of the war, either in Oregon or any territory in that region of the globe which may be then a part of the United States. The Act of the 13th of May last authorizes the acceptance of volunteers for twelve months, *or during the war with Mexico.* The condition of the acceptance in this case must be a tender of service *during the war*, and it must be explicitly understood that they may be discharged without a claim for returning home, wherever they may be serving at the termination of the war, provided it is in the then territory of the United States, or may be taken to the nearest or most convenient territory belonging to the United States, and there discharged. The men must be apprised expressly that their term of service is for the war; that they are to be discharged as above specified, and that they are to be employed on a distant service. It is, however, desirable that it should not be publicly known or proclaimed that they are to go to any particular province of Mexico. On this point great caution is enjoined. The communication to the officers and men must go so far as to remove all just ground of complaint that they have been deceived in the nature and place of service.

It is expected that the regiment will be in readiness to embark as early as the first of August next, if practicable. Steps will be immediately taken to provide for transportion, etc.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[Signed.] W. L. Marcy,

Secretary of War.

War Department
September 11, 1846.

Colonel J. D. Stevenson,
Comdg. Regt. of Volunteers,
Governor's Island, Harbor of New York.

Sir—The transports having on board the regiment under your command are destined to the Pacific, and will repair to our naval squandron now on the coast of California. Instructions, with a copy of which you are herewith furnished, have been given to the naval commander on that station in regard to his operations, and you are directed to co-operate with him in carrying out his plans so far as the land forces may be needed for that purpose. Without undertaking to give specific instructions as to the movements of our forces in that quarter, for much must be left to the judgment of the commanding officers, it is proper to state that the military occupation of California is the main object in view. There are three points deemed to be worthy of particular attention. These are San Francisco, Monterey and San Diego. It is important to have possession of the Bay of San Francisco and the country in that vicinity. The necessity of having something like a permanent and secure position on the coast of California, and probably at this place will not be overlooked. Assuming that such a position will be found and selected on the Bay of San Francisco, it is expected that a fortification, such as the means at your command may enable you to construct, will be erected, and the heavy guns heretofore sent out, and those taken by the transports to the extent needed, will be used for its armament. This work should be designed for a two-fold object, the protection of the vessels in the bay, and the security of the land forces. The selection of the site will be an important matter. It should be preceded by a careful examination of the place with reference to both objects, and the location made under the advice and direction of the commanding naval officer. It may, be, however, that your first debarkation will not be at this point. The circumstances which may be found to exist on your arrival in that region must control in this matter.

It is probable that Monterey will have been taken by our naval force before the land troops reach that coast, and they may be needed to hold possession of it. This place is also to be secured by fortifications or temporary works from an attack either by sea or land. Judging from the information we have here of what will be the state of things on your arrival on the coast of California, it is concluded that these will be found to be the important points,

and the possession of them essential to the objects in view in prosecuting the war in that quarter; but the particular mention of them is by no means intended as instructions to confine our military operations to them. As to the third place suggested, San Diego, less is known of it than of the other two. Should the naval commander determine to take and hold possession of it, and need the land force, or a part of it for that purpose, you will, of course, yield to his views in that respect. Whatever is done upon the coast of California, or of any other part of Mexico will require, it is presumed, co-operation of the land and naval forces, and it is not doubted that this co-operation will be cordially rendered.

The point or points of debarkation of the regiment under your command should be settled as speedily as practicable, after your arrival upon the Mexican coast, and the transports discharged. The land forces will, theafter, be attended by the vessels of the squadron. The ordnance, ammunition, arms, and all descriptions of public property which are not required on shore, or cannot be safely deposited there, will be transfered to the public ships. Upon them the land forces must rely for bringing supplies where water transportation is necessary. If the exigency of the service requires these forces to move from one place to another on the coast, the public vessels will furnish the means of doing so.

The regiment under your command, as well as the company of Captain Tompkins which has preceded it, is a part of *General Kearney's* command; but it may be that he will not be in a situation to reach you by his orders immediately on your debarkation. Until that is the case, yours will be an independent command, except when engaged in joint operations with the naval force.

It is not expected that you will be able to advance far into the country, nor is it advisable for you to undertake any hazardous enterprize. Until you shall fall under the command of *General Kearney,* your force will be mostly, if not wholly, employed in seizing and holding important possessions on the seacoast.

The Government here have received information which is deemed to be reliable, though not official, that our squadron in the Pacific had taken possession of Monterey, as early as the 6th of July last.

There is reason to believe that California is not favorably disposed to the Central Government of Mexico, and will not be disposed to make a vigorous resistance to our operations in that quarter. Should you find such to be the state of things there, it will be of the greatest importance that the good will of the people towards the United States should be cultivated. This is to be done by liberal and kind treatment. They should be made to feel

that we come as deliverers. Their rights of person, property, and religion must be respected and sustained. The greatest care must be taken to restrain the troops from all acts of license or outrage. The supplies drawn from the country must be paid for at fair prices; and, as far as practicable, friendly relations should be established. In the event of hostile resistance, your operations must be governed by circumstances, and you must use the means at your command to accomplish the objects in view—the military occupation of the country. It is not, however, expected that much can be done, if preparations shall have been made to resist, until the forces under *General Kearney* shall have entered the country. You are directed to embrace every opportunity to communicate with this department, and to furnish it with, not only a full account of your movements and operations previous to your coming under the direct command of *General Kearney*, but with such other information as may be useful for the Department to possess in regard to conducting the war in that quarter.

Your attention is particularly directed to that portion of the instructions to the commanding officer of the squadron in the Pacific herewith, which has reference to the joint operation of the land and naval force, and you will conform your conduct thereto.

You are also furnished with an extract from instructions to General Kearney, giving directions for the course of conduct to be pursued while in the military occupation of any portion of the enemy's country, together with a copy of a letter to General Taylor, enclosing one from the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to commercial intercourse with such parts of the enemy's ports, etc., as may be in possession of our forces. These are to be regarded as instructions to you, should you find yourself placed in the circumstances therein contemplated. You will take the earliest opportunity to make the commanding officer of the squadron in the Pacific fully acquainted with your instructions and the accompanying papers.

Where a place is taken by the joint action of the naval and land force, the naval officer in command, if superior in rank to yourself, will be entitled to make arrangements for the civil government of it, while it is held by the co-operation of both branches of the military force. All your powers in this respect will, of course, be devolved on *General Kearney* whenever he shall arrive in California and assume the command of the volunteer regiment. As soon as practicable you will furnish him with a copy of this communication and the other papers herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[Signed.] W. L. Marcy,
Secretary of War.

From the Herald of September 6, 1846.

"THE CALIFORNIA EXPEDITION. ITS OBJECT AND PURPOSE.

"The preparations and outlay for this expedition have been the cause of much noise, speculation and vituperation among certain portions of the community, who have echoed the half-fledged opinions of a few presses whose conductors have no souls of sympathy with any movement, however advantageous to the country at large, unless it yields directly to the glorification of their peculiar party.

"Again and again it is asked, what is the object of this expedition? and more particularly now, as the war is supposed to be virtually at an end, and the country to which it is destined is really in the possession of the United States. Briefly as possible we will give our ideas of the objects, intended operations and advantages of this expedition.

"The rich and beautiful region of California will, without doubt, come into formal possession of the United States, without any further fighting for it. Far removed as it is from our seat of government, inhabited in a measure by a half-civilized people, it will be absolutely necessary, if we intend to hold it, that military possession be taken of it, and that a territorial government be established there, and what is the class who, under such circumstances, are best fitted to do this? Not mere soldiers, whose only knowledge is a military one. Not politicians, who can theorize most beautifully, but whose schemes burst like gas-bubbles when tried by the fire of practice; but the sound, hardy mechanics of our country—the men whose hands know useful labor—the artisan, at whose touch the rough metal is moulded into implements of use—the men who transform the material into the necessaries and luxuries of human existence. The hard-handed honest laborer, the farmer, the blacksmith, the tailor, the shoemaker, the hatter, the carpenter, the mason; these are men under whose auspices a country rich in soil, healthy in climate, and possessing local advantages of a rare nature, will grow up and flourish. Precisely of this class are the men whom our government are about sending to California. Nearly every man in the regiment is a mechanic, and may carry his implements of trade with him. Should the regiment be disbanded immediately upon its arrival, it contains within itself the elements of prosperity, wealth and greatness. A great harmony of feeling exists between both officers and men, and a fortnight more will probably find these pioneers in the cause of the advancement of human freedom, civilization and prosperity, on their

way to the land of their hopes and future prospects. Arrived there, they will cause the '*wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose tree*,' and plant the standard of the American Government, American civilization and enterprise upon the soil of California."

From the Herald of September 14, 1846.

"The troops comprising the expedition for the conquest, settlement, or annexation of California, will, in a few days, embark for their destination; and in spite of all the difficulties and opposition attending their progress from the commencement, they will sail, admirably adapted for the purposes intended by the government to be effected. If their path in a foreign country is to be cut by the sword, strong minds guide and strong arms carry the weapons with which to overcome all obstacles. If they are to settle down quietly in the possession of the soil, there are hands used to toil, and implements of husbandry and mechanism are ready to be devoted to the improvement of the ground they occupy. In either case, whether their cause is to be one of conquest and just retaliation or of peaceful occupation, the expedition is composed of material well provided with men and means, and one that will do credit to the State which is honored in the selection of her sons for the first body of troops sailing from the United States to a foreign land.

"Much has been said, and much unjustly, relative to the organization of the regiment, and many have been the sneering remarks thrown out, predicting that a corporal's guard would be all remaining, by the time that the day appointed for embarkation came round. The present actual condition and force of the regiment is the best answer to all such aspersions. Ten companies, the full complement of the force, show a muster-roll of over 700 men, being as many as are allowed to enlist; a band of excellent musicians is organized; the ships to convey the troops to their destination are chartered, prepared and ready for sea; a powerful armament of cannon, guns, mortars, and, in fact, of everything necessary for either a regiment of dragoons, artillery or infantry has been furnished; clothes, provisions, and necessary equipments of every sort have been provided. The men themselves are contented and anxious to start; the officers generally are men of military knowledge and experence—some of them, and indeed all of the field officers, with the exception of the colonel, have held situations as professors at West Point, which is the best evidence of their fitness for the duties

assigned them; and now that this whole body of American citizens, mechanics and farmers, commanded by able men, are about to go from among us, it is wrong that any of the press of the State which calls them her own, should endeavor to mar the good results and good feeling to be derived from their effects, on account of political or personal prejudice against one or more of the officers.

"Col. Stevenson, who commands the expedition, has a most admirable opportunity of displaying his perseverance and fitness of character to enter upon a bold enterprise, from the commencement of the organization of the regiment up to the present time; probably there are but few men in the country who could design and carry through a project so complicated, and in as successful a manner as he has done. Attacked on every side by political enemies, or disappointed for an approach to the rank which he holds; retarded by the non-action of the Governor of this State, who seems, for some private reasons, to have granted unwillingly and but by degrees, the aid which his station enabled him to afford; encumbered with the supervision and necessary discipline of 700 or 800 men unused to restraint of any kind, he has diplayed an energy and boldness which qualify him in a supereminent degree for a commander of a body of troops, which departs upon a business requiring the utmost acumen and perseverance. To Colonel Stevenson, and to his Lieutenant-Colonel, Major and Adjutant, the whole credit is due for carrying to a prosperous crisis an expedition fraught with interest to every American citizen.

"We say nothing of the ultimate results to be effected from this expedition. The United States Government is fully aware of their importance, judging from the liberal manner in which all necessary outfits have been granted, and we can but wish them that success which seems almost certain to arise from the elements composing their power. We have perfect confidence in the judgment and skill of the superior officers; and as for the men, they are, and all must have, too much at heart the honor of their country ever to disgrace her flag. The fifteen or twenty of them that took advantage of the baby act and left the regiment, could well be spared—their places were filled by better men, and at a future day we hope that the expedition which is soon to sail, will, by their deeds of honor, acquire a name which no one would be unwilling to have bestowed upon himself."

It will be seen from the above that I was given by President Polk one of the most important commands then before our government. A command whose object was the conquest and holding of the Mexican territory, now occupied by the great State of Califor-

nia. Of my services as a military commander in charge of this expedition, I take pride in referring to my record in the War Department of the United States, and of the details of our services; of my status as an organizer and commander; and of my prompt action under circumstances of danger, particularly of my action when the interests of our government and of my command were placed in jeopardy in Brazil, through the action of the United States Minister, Hon. H A. Wise. I refer you to the following extract from the historical writings of Col. Thomas Crosby Lancey, of San Francisco, which taken in connection with the extracts from Col. Mason's report, and from the recollections of that gallant officer Captain Nelson Taylor, herein given, place the matter in its true light, and give to me the honor which is justly my due, and also shows to some extent what my country is indebted for my services:

The following interesting article is from the pen of Col. Thos. Crosby Lancey, of San Francisco:

The history of the causes which led to, and the manner in which the acquisition of California was made by the United States, are at this date almost unknown to perhaps the majority of the people who now dwell in this State. To many the events of the years before the great influx of the gold seeking population who came here in 1849–50 have been unrevealed, and even to those who have been cognizant of the thrilling drama enacted here, the remembrance has all but faded out. The story of those brave and adventurous spirits who—long before the cry of gold reached the East, borne upon the winds that blew over the Sierras from ocean to ocean—conceived and carried out the idea of adding California, then a province of Mexico, as another jewel to the star en-crowned United States, has never yet been given to the world in its completeness, and so to-day, grateful Californians know not to whom they are indebted for their fair heritage. Without seeking to wrest a single laurel from the many gallant men who were here before the war with Mexico (in 1846) broke out, the *Post* must concede to the famous Stevenson's Regiment, which arrived in this State from New York during that period, a generous share of the honors of the conquest. The causes which led to the formation of that command; the trials of its commander in selecting suitable men; the purposes for which it was organized; its sailing; the voyage, and landing here—all of these are interesting facts. When the war with Mexico broke out Colonel Stevenson was a member of the New York Legislature, on the closing session of which he

made a speech warmly supporting the Government in its action. Soon after Colonel Stevenson had business in Washington City, where he called upon his old friend, Amos Kendall, once Postmaster-General. At the house of the latter he was introduced to a prominent Mormon, who had just secured permission from President Polk to organize a regiment at Council Bluffs to march to California, under the command of a United States officer. During the conversation Colonel Stevenson remarked that he had heard much of California, and would like very much to go there. Mr. Kendall in reporting the matter of the organizing of the Mormon regiment, incidentally mentioned that Colonel Stevenson was in the city, and also mentioned what he said relative to California. The President immediately said to Mr. Kendall: "See Colonel Stevenson, and tell him that if he is disposed to go to California I will give him authority to raise a regiment of New York volunteers." Colonel Stevenson was informed of this offer by Mr. Kendall, and soon after Gen. J. A. Dix, then Senator from New York, also came to his hotel, and told him the President had asked his opinion regarding the idea of sending a detachment by way of Cape Horn. He approved of the measure and of the commander chosen, as, had he the nomination, he would name Colonel Stevenson before any other citizen soldier that he knew. Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, also a Senator from New York, likewise tendered his congratulations to Colonel Stevenson, and wished him success. Colonel Stevenson felt much delicacy in calling upon the President, and therefore delayed doing so until he should receive an invitation from him. The next day, after Secretary Marcy had told him of what President Polk had said, Colonel Stevenson visited the mansion grounds, where on one day in each week, a grand out-of-door musical soiree was given by the band, which generally attracted some 5,000 people, and while there a servant approached with the request from President Polk, who was on the rear portico, that the Colonel should step around and see him. The Colonel did so, and the President in person requested him to call upon him the next day. In the interview on the following day the President questioned Colonel Stevenson closely as to his previous pursuits and his experience in business. These the Colonel answered satisfactorily, and then the President added that he had heard him spoken very highly of as a commander and a man of ability by Secretary of War Marcy and others; said that he was satisfied he would do honor to himself in the matter, and thereupon gave him authority to raise the regiment. Colonel Stevenson then left the executive chamber with orders to the Secretary of the Navy, Quartermaster

and Commissary General for the necessary arms, supplies and transportation of the regiment. The Cabinet approved of the appointment of Colonel Stevenson, and heartily entertained the idea of the conquest of California. Gen. Winfield Scott, who was also present, thought the appointment a good one, and assented to it. Colonel Stevenson then left for New York, and in the morning the mail brought him the official permission to raise the regiment, signed by W. L. Marcy, and dated June 26, 1846. The instructions from the Secretary were that the regiment should be composed of unmarried men, of good habits and varied pursuits, and such as would be likely to remain in California or adjoining territory at the close of the war. It was understood that the recruits must be informed that they were to go a long distance, and that they were to enlist for the war and no shorter length of time, and that they were to be mustered out of service in California should it become a part of the United States; otherwise, they should be mustered out of service on such other United States territory on the Pacific Coast that the commandant named at the conclusion of the war. The notification also read that the command would be expected to start early in August, 1846. Upon receipt of this Colonel Stevenson, in a communication dated June 30th, wrote to Silas Wright, the Governor of New York, for the necessary permission to raise a regiment in the State. To this the Governor graciously consented. Up to this time nothing was known of the intended movement, and Colonel Stevenson himself had the pleasure of announcing it at the usual gathering of all the officers of the citizen soldiery of the city of New York, at the Governor's room, upon the 4th of July, 1846. The following day the newspapers contained full accounts of the new movement, and on the 7th of July Colonel Stevenson took up his headquarters at the old State Arsenal in White street, and began receiving recruits for the seven companies to be raised in New York City, which, with three companies to be recruited in the interior of the State, would make ten companies of a regiment of 1,000 men. Colonel Stevenson had arranged that his own commission, as well as those of his staff, should be issued by the State of New York, and he also had determined that his field and staff should, if possible, be composed of officers of the regular army or graduates of West Point. His reason for desiring that his principal officers should be graduates of West Point was that he intended to bring the regiment out in three detachments, and he wanted able men to command and drill them. Colonel Stevenson had especially requested the Secretary of War not to appoint any one to accompany him, except in a mil-

itary capacity, and then not unless he was under his control. As soon as it became generally known that a regiment was to be raised for service in California, numerous applications for positions were made to the President and Secretary of War, all of which were referred to Colonel Stevenson. Many applications were made for the positions of Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon to the regiment. The applications were referred to the United States Board of Medical Examiners, who recommended Alexander Perry for Surgeon and William C. Parker for Assistant-Surgeon. Colonel Stevenson having succeeded in getting the officers of his choice for the field and staff, felt assured of the success of the expedition, and at once turned his attention to the organization of the several companies. The various officers recruiting these companies had been given full and special instructions, and in a very short time ten full companies of splendid men had been recruited, seven of which were from New York, one from Albany, and the other two from the interior counties of the State. These companies were on the first of August gathered together in general encampment on Governor's Island, New York harbor, the tents being pitched on a lawn between Fort Columbus and Castle Williams. Here, on the first day of August, 1846, the regiment was mustered into service by Colonel Bankhead, commanding the Second Regiment of Artillery, as the *Seventh* New York Volunteers.

There were 38 commissioned officers and 729 non-commissioned officers and privates, making a total of 767, rank and file

The regulations of the service provided that all recruits should be surgically examined within four days of their application, but at that time the examining physicians were so busy elsewhere that it was not until the 20th of August that the regiment was examined. So strict were the examining surgeons that out of 800 men there, 150 were rejected. When it became known that so many had been rejected, over 500 applications were made for the vacancies within two days. Very few members of the regiment were over twenty-one years of age, and no married men, excepting those whose wives accompanied the regiment as laundresses, were taken. Some of these rejected men were very bitter against Colonel Stevenson, and talked of suing him for false imprisonment in keeping them on Governor's Island for twenty odd days without having them examined, but when the matter was fully explained to them a greater portion at once saw that he was not to blame, and relinquished the idea.

At about this time one Thomas Jefferson Sutherland, who had in earlier days organized a band of men to co-operate with some

The above cut represents the appearance of the scene on Governor's Island at the time of the presentation of the Bibles to the California regiment, by Dr. McVickar, in behalf of the American Bible Society. The regiment is seen drawn up in hollow square, the spectators gathered around, kept at a respectful distance by a chain of sentinels, and the Colonel and staff, with invited guests, in the midst. The Colonel is receiving the good book, and Dr. McVickar, the chaplain of the island, is beseeching him to hold it as his guide and leader in whatever part of the world he may be with his troops, that they should go not only with the sword, but with the olive branch of peace, and with that Bible, upon which liberty has its foundation.

ARTO-TYPE. SCHMIDT LABEL & LITHO. CO. S. F.

Presentation of Bibles.

As the regiment was about ready to sail a presentation of bibles was made to its members, in behalf of the American Bible Society, by Rev. Dr. M'Vickar, Chaplain on Governor's Island.

Everything was done to make the occasion an impressive one, and it was marked by the presence of a large concourse of ladies and other friends of the regiment, and its officers, brought to the island by special steamboats. The New York *Herald*, in its issue of September 6th, had a cut illustrating the scene of presentation. At that day illustrations were rare in newspapers, and only used upon occasions of great general interest. The style of the wood-cut was immensely behind that now attained in newspaper illustrations, and a glance at it is suggestive in more ways than one.

The speech of Dr. M'Vickar on making the presentation was most finished and eloquent.

Rev. Dr. M'Vickar's Address.

Under favor of your colonel's permission I address myself to you—officers, non-commissioned and privates of the California Regiment—and never before, I confess, have I addressed myself to my fellow man with so deep a sense of my inability to say that which befits the occasion and the audience. It is not your numbers that daunt me—I have addressed assemblies as numerous—nor is it your military array, and that I a man of peace am called to counsel soldiers—with that too my official duty has made me familiar—nor yet that I speak to men presently bound for the battle field; even with such solemn partings, recent events have made me alas but too conversant; but never before have I been called to address an organized body of armed citizens who go forth alike to conquer and to colonize, and who bid adieu to their country and their homes, with the professed understanding that they return not, but are to find alike their dwellings and their graves in a far distant land. This thought, I confess, overcomes me, and when all the deep and varied responsibilities involved in such an expedition arise before me, I feel bewildered as well as overpowered, and can only throw myself as a man and brother on your own sensibilities on this occasion to give any weight to the few feeble parting words I have now to utter.

But it is to the ulterior objects of your expedition alone I shall speak. As a military armament I look not at it and speak not of

it. The duties and responsibilities of that are in other and higher hands—nor is it a subject that befits my peaceful mission to you this day. From the dark fields of bloody strife, if such await you (which God forefend) I turn gladly to the brighter scenes which greet the prophetic eye when peace has converted your "swords into plough shares and your spurs into pruning hooks," and the transplanted germ of American freedom shall begin to strike its roots deep on the shores of the broad Pacific. Looked at in this light, what scenes of duty and high responsibility arise before the thoughtful mind. Tis then that I see in your array a mission not of war but of peace and love—like unto some armed convoy of high benevolence freighted with precious gifts—from the wealthy East unto the forests of the West—a royal donation from the boisterous Atlantic unto her quiet ocean sister. In your departure ocean speaks unto ocean and says, "Receive at my hand the gift of civilization. That lamp of science, law and religion, which I myself received from the far East, I now, in turn, hand over to the distant West. Freely I have received—freely I give. Take the boon and hold it worthily."

But to speak without figure, who but must see in this national transfer of American citizens from ocean to ocean, a forward step taken (whether man intend it or not) in that great Providential movement which from the earliest times has sent the tide of civilization westward. Thus looked at, you, my fellow-citizens, constituting the California Regiment, are the living scion cut off from the parent American stock, destined to engraft the institutions of the East on the wild plants of the West—you are our chosen carriers to introduce into less favored lands a higher and purer Christian civilization. And now let no man scorn this as an ideal picture, for if your armament in its more peaceful objects will not bear this interpretation, and if in its fulfillment it shall not reasonably carry them out, God's blessing, be well assured, does not and cannot rest upon it, for such is his blessed and unchanging will, that even thus shall knowledge and virtue and fair religion circumnavigate the earth, though men who go forth as you do bearing in your hands the seeds of a better civilization. Whatever else your vocation, that is your primary one, as God's children. Nor can man's neglect or abuse wholly defeat it—even out of evil, God still educes good, the sword of conquest is made to open His way, and the deep laden barques of self-interest that rush in, are still made to bear His gifts to destitute or savage lands—peace and the arts of life, order and law, science and its teachers, the missionary and the gospel. Such is ever the circuit of God's footsteps on the earth.

Such, therefore, must ever be the tracks of man's duty in following it. Elightened and Christian man is ever to be the pioneer of a better civilization.

And now among the carriers of this better seed, what race stands so prominent on earth as that of which we Americans are on this Western Continent the representatives—a race that in the tide of time, since first called forth on the theatre of the world's history, has never yet turned back, whose course has ever been onward and upward, and over whose destined empire there would seem to hang no other cloud than that which may arise from their own possible unworthiness, should they be found to turn into base gain or lust of dominion; a trust of power committed to their hands for the civilizing and christianizing of the earth. Then do I truly believe the abused talent will be taken from them and given to others more worthy, and when the spiritual light is quenched, that the candlestick of power will be removed; for what right have we to claim exemption from that righteous fate which has withdrawn the gift of dominion from other chosen races, should we like them prove unfaithful to the mission on which we are sent. Let us then, as Americans, "not be high minded but fear"—let us "be watchful and strengthen the things that remain."

To make void that curse of unworthiness is a responsibility that rests in its due degree on all of Anglo-Saxon blood; but in a special degree, permit me to say, does it rest on each member, high or low, of this California Regiment Never before has it, in my poor judgment, so rested on any equal number of American citizens, for never before have we as a nation thus colonized, and in the face of the civilized world put the stamp of our name and government and land, on a new, distant and dubious settlement. We have at least in this given a gage to the civilized world which we are bound to redeem on peril of our honor. It behooves us all to remember that it is indeed a most high and solemn act, one which the Christian world looks at in doubt or fear, one, therefore, that shall hereafter take its place in the world's history. The living germ of a new State and a new Empire is as on this day to be solemnly planted by American hands—a living fountain as on this day to be opened in the wilderness, whence coming generations shall drink either sweet waters or bitter. *Which* that shall be—on you, I repeat it, mainly depends—on *you*, its founders, legislators, citizens, rulers—on *you* officers and men of this California Regiment. It is a responsibility that so rests upon you that you cannot shake it off.

Shall then your country permit you to depart laden with such

responsibilities, bearing forth as you do in the face of the whole civilized world, her name and fame, the credit of her institutions, her moral training and her religious faith without one parting word of kindness or of caution? No, my friends! Though it be but from lips feeble as mine, yet as an anxious mother will your country this day lay her hand on the head and her parting charge on the heart and conscience of every son here present, who goes forth not to return. Even while I thus speak do I see her, the venerable genius of our Anglo-Saxon land, the common mother of us all. I see her rise up. from this her watery throne where she sits embosomed amid the peaceful fleets of an unbounded commerce. to bid you, her armed sons, farewell. I see her followed in dim procession by a long train of patriots and heroes and Christian men. Men who not only here but in older lands have toiled and fought and bled, not for conquest but for right; not for license but for law, and that they might build up for posterity that which we here enjoy, a fair and (I trust) an enduring fabric of constitutional freedom. In that long line may I not say I recognize conspicuous the venerated form of Washington, the father of our country. He who built up our liberty on the foundation of virtue and religion and has left impressed on every American heart the fairest portraiture the world ever saw of the Christian soldier—the hero, without stain and without reproach. But higher yet do I recognize the genius of our Anglo-Saxon land. I see her form, I hear her words, and mine, believe me, are their faithful echo.

"Go forth" she says, "my well armed sons—the sword in your hands, but peace in your hearts and justice in your deeds. Go forth as apostles from this my favored land to teach and to bless those to which you go. Remember that you bear a widely honored name. It has ever been a lineage of faith and virtue, of courage and gentleness, of peace, of order and of religion. Such has it been in the old world, such in the heroic times of the new. Let not its fair fame be tarnished or its institutions defamed by unfilial hands, or unworthy tongues. As you bear your country's ensign so remember, do you, your country's honor. Let not the name of American citizen ever receive a blot through you. Let it not be said that with Americans, might was the measure of right, or that gold outweighed justice, or that the soldiers' sword made heavy the scale of a vanquished enemy's ransom. Rather let that name be known as one of blessing wherever it is heard even as that of a teacher appointed of Heaven to instruct the nations of the earth—to exhibit to the world the living proof how liberty may dwell united with law, how individual freedom may stand linked together

with public order, and Christain faith in the nation walk hand in hand with an unfettered private conscience.

Go forth then my children, and not only as citizens but as men, remembering that you leave at home those whom you will make to hold up or to hang their heads when in future days your names and career are mentioned—the father, whose name you bear—the mother who nursed you at her bosom—the sister with whom in early life you played and who now dashes from her eye the parting tear, in her blessed confidence that you, a brother and a son can *never* forget those whom you early loved. In that sacred confidence of home affection do I too trust, that nothing unworthy, nothing base, will ever be permitted to stain your name or that of your country. I read it in your looks—I see it in your eye—in that eye which even now glistens when 'home' is mentioned and which, in a far distant clime, will daily turn to the picture of 'home,' as to a charm to guard alike your heart and life—to fill the one with pure and generous thoughts, the other, with virtuous and noble deeds.

And that you may perform well all your parts, whether as soldiers or colonists, as citizens, or as private men, go forth as Christians, and take the blessed book I now proffer to you, the gift of your Christian country as the sum and substance of her farewell. Take it as the best charter you can draft of your public liberties; the surest safeguard you can have of private virtue and the only enduring basis on which your social institutions can grow up. Believe *me*—believe the voice of history, that society without religion is a rope of sand, and government without the fear of God is but tyranny under the name of law. Think not then lightly of the gift of a bible, even as human legislators, for as no State can stand but upon religion, so no Christian State can stand but upon the Bible It is its life, and losing *that*, even empires sink into ruin, they die and rot like things of earth. Take then this blessed book in your hands, it contains the only religion that can stand inquiry, bind it closely to your hearts, it teaches the only faith that can bring them comfort, and be assured that the closer you do bind it to your hearts and lives and social institutions the greater will be the strength of your new State as well as the more enduring its prosperity. It will prove a safeguard amid the perils of the wilderness, far beyond what man can give. Without its aid vain will be your arms, when physical strength will be in the governed; vain your laws, for what will they be without reverence for the lawgiver? Vain your freedom without virtue, to secure it, and very vain all attempts to build up a people's virtue on any other foundation than that of the religion of the Bible, on reverence for that great unseen Lawgiver whose eyes penetrate

alike the wilderness and the human heart, whose hand asks not the aid of human power, and whose secret justice keeps an account with man's conscience whether on the shores of the Pacific or of the Atlantic sea. To that inestimable gift I add another, next in my love and as I think (viewed as a practical embodiment of Bible teaching) in value, the liturgy of the church of that land which is the home of our Anglo-Saxon race, the home where our liberties were cradled, and our pure religion nursed, and whence our national blood has mainly flowed. 'Go forth then,' I say again, 'my well armed sons,' confiding not so much in the arms you bear, as in the God you serve, the faith you profess and the virtues you practice. Look up in trust to that great and holy Being who has hitherto guided our race and nation as by a 'pillar of cloud and fire,' and who will lead you, their sons, as He led your sires, if you prove worthy of them, to peaceful homes, over a stormy ocean and through trackless forests. Only follow as becomes your lineage the Anglo-Saxon footsteps, take God's word for your guide and build up all your institutions, in His faith and fear. Let the banner of Christ be planted, wherever you plant that of your country, and wheresoever you place your foot place too God's house in the wilderness. This, even as a mother's dying word, I charge upon your filial obedience. Build *early* a temple to God's honor, dedicate it to a Saviour's worship and from the rude log church let daily prayers ascend from consecrated lips to bring down a daily blessing on the still ruder log cabin."

Such words, fellow-citizens, of parting caution seem I to have heard from the lips of our common mother, and as such have I, however, feebly, rehearsed them unto you. God grant that true words may not prove fruitless through the feebleness of him who speaks them. One thing gives me hope This day will be remembered by you in distant lands, not so much for what is said as what is given. When oceans shall roll between, and the words of the Speaker be forgotten, and the heart that prompted them has long ceased to beat, still ,shall this volume speak, and this day when they were given, be by you freshly remembered. It may be, on the battle-field, in one hurried but true thought of God and your Saviour; it may be on the bed of sickness, in the hour of penitence and prayer. I trust it will often be in the peaceful home of the happy emigrant, when your eye, my brother, glancing on this book, shall bring back this day and this hour, and this beauteous scene, and you will say to the dear ones clustering around you: "Yes, I remember well the day when this blessed volume was put into my hands; I thank God for the gift. It has been my guide and

counsel, my stay and consolation in many a dark hour in the wilderness."

Such, men and brethren, fellow-soldiers and fellow-citizens, but above all, FELLOW-CHRISTIANS, such is the parting farewell of one whose prayers will follow you, where his words can no longer reach you, and who prays now, that the God and Saviour, whose he is, and whom he serves, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, will be your guide and guard wherever you are, will bless, preserve, and keep you, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION.

To each non-commissioned officer and soldier of the regiment do I now present, in the name of the New York Bible Society, by whose liberality it is furnished, a copy of that Sacred Volume, together with an affectionate and fervent prayer, that it may prove to each one of you the words of Eternal Life. Guard it carefully, read it faithfully, and may God's blessing be with you in the daily perusal of it.

I am also commissioned to present to each soldier desiring it, as a manual of devotion, both of public and private use, a copy of the Book of Common Prayer, on the part of the Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of New York, the Bishop White Prayer Book Society of Philadelphia, and several private contributors.

I am also enabled to present to the regiment, on the part of many donors, three small libraries, apportioned to the three ships of the command, with a view to their reunion in your future settlement, as the foundationof a Colonial libary. However small the collection, it will serve at least to strengthen the ties of home, and to remind you, that your country still holds you in affectionate remembrance.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Henry S. Burton and Major James A. Hardy:—To you, gentlemen, as vested with a distinct command in your respective vessels, I have the honor to present, on the part of the same societies a copy of the Bible and Prayer Book, inscribed with your names and official rank, with a view to facilitate the ser-

vices of public worship, on ship board. Receive them, as a parting gift, from a country that knows your worth and thorough military training. Receive them, as the parting gift of a friend, who is well assured that you value them aright, and will so use them as to make them a blessing to yourselves, and those under your command.

To Colonel J. D. Stevenson:—To you, sir, as the Colonel of the regiment, leader of the expedition and probable ruler of the new colony, I have also the honor to present an engraved Bible, on the part of the New York Bible Society, on the part of the New York Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, a Book of Common Prayer, similarly inscribed, with your name and rank. Receive them in expression of the deep sympathy felt by this Christian land, in the religious welfare of yourself and command, and of their equally deep conviction that you will find in them the surest aids to discipline, as well as the wisest guidance to those who govern. It is the closing prayer of one who yields to no man here present, in the deep interest that he feels, that this expedition shall be one of honoroble and prosperous issue—the prayer of one, who is alike your friend and servant, it is his prayer that your path of duty may ever be open, and your course in it ever blest, as blest it doubtless will be, so long as guided by the precepts and principles these volumnes teach, of justice and piety, of purity and peace.

On the part, and in the name of our common country, do I now, bid to you, and those under your command, an affectionate and respectful Farewell.

Colonel Stevenson, taken by surprise by such an elaborate and beautiful address, made the following impromptu reply:

Reverend Sir: In behalf of the officers and soldiers of the Seventh Regiment of New York State soldiers, I sincerely thank you for these inestimable gifts. The government of our country furnishes us with food, to fit the body for the soldiers' toil; but you, sir, and your associate gentlemen have provided for us living food for the soul, which, if carefully read and digested, will make us wiser, better, and happier men, for it will point out the way to ob-

tain the inestimable reward of a good conscience in this life, and the surest guarantee for our Creator's blessing in the next.

In a few days we shall leave our native land and the scenes that have been familiar to most of us from childhood to the present hour. We separate from father, mother, brother, and sister; yes, and more than this, from wives and children—those dear ones around whom our heart-strings cling, with a tenacity stronger than life itself. We go from the land were rest the sacred remains of those we fondly loved in life, and the recollection of whose virtues will be cherished while life lasts, and reason holds her seat.

We leave all these to cross the trackless ocean, that we may reach the distant shores of the Pacific, and plant there the standard of our country, and around it a colony of free-born men, the germ of American civilization, and we then promise that the foot of a slave shall never pollute the soil with our consent. Among those who now surround you, we have representatives of every art, trade, and profession, save your own, Reverend Sir, for which our country has become so pre-eminently distinguished. Look around you, sir, and point me out if you can one man upon whose face or person a single trace of dissipation can be found. Ask yourself if they are not fair specimens of our Anglo-Saxon race; and worthy to represent our noble State and nation upon the battle-field, or in the more peaceful and useful walks of civil life. I declare, in the presence of this assemblage of our fellow-citizens, that all have conducted in a manner to reflect credit upon themselves, and give satisfaction to their officers.

You have been pleased to allude to the part I have taken in the preparation and organization, and to remind me what my fellow-citizens still expect of me in this command. It would be affectation to deny that it has cost me many toilsome and sleepless hours. Yet have I never faltered, and by the aid of the liberal administration of our general government and the prompt and efficient support I have received from my officers, the enterprise has been carried thus far, and with the help of Almighty God I promise that whilst I have the honor to command this band of citizen-soldiers all the ability I possess, and every energy of my nature shall be

put in requisition regardless of toil or peril to carry out the wishes of the government, and to promote the interest, happiness, comfort, and welfare of all I have been chosen to command. In thanking you, Reverend Sir, for the deep interest you have taken in our temporal and spiritual welfare since we have been encamped upon the Island, we beg you to be assured that on our ocean voyage, as when we shall become residents of that far-off land, whither we are destined, the memory of the good pastor of this military post will be cherished by every manly heart in the command, and by none more than him who now addresses you.

And in conclusion, I respectfully request you to ask for us of our Heavenly Father his blessing upon our country and our expedition.

discontented spirits in Canada, who were trying to create a revolution there, appeared on the scene. This Sutherland, during the trouble mentioned, had gathered about 100 men, and had taken possession of Navy Island, in the Niagara river, above the Falls, and so alarmed the Canadians that they requested the United States to remove them. This was accordingly done by a detachment of United States soldiery. From that time until the breaking out of the war with Mexico he led a wandering, vagabond life, and when he heard of Colonel Stevenson's intended departure he applied to the Secretrry of War for a position in that regiment. The Secretary directed him to Colonel Stevenson, without, however, recommending him, or even giving him a note to the Colonel on the subject. A few days, after he appeared before Colonel Stevenson, at Governor's Island, and, although a perfect stranger to him, asked for a position on his staff. When told there was no vacancy, he, with a sublimity of cheek truly refreshing, said that while he would prefer going as a military man, still he would accept the position of "adviser" to Colonel Stevenson, which position he could fill with ability, owing to his great military experience. Upon the Colonel's refusing the profferred counsel, Sutherland waxed indignant, and saucily told that gentleman that he had much powerful influence, and that he (the Colonel) would be made to feel the weight of his displeasure, before the command left, if, indeed, he did not entirely prevent its departure. At this the patience of Colonel Stevenson became exhausted, and he ordered him from the tent and off the camp-ground. Nothing more was heard of the would-be "adviser" until, some fifteen days before the time appointed for the command to sail, the Colonel received a communication from the Secretary of War, inclosing a communication from some promnent politicians of Philadelphia to President Polk, advising him that matters were so shaping at New York that Colonel Stevenson might be prevented from going to California in command of the expedition, and that in case he did not go all of his field officers would resingn on account of their attachment to him. The communication also went on to say that they would recommend for the Colonel's position a certain captain in the New York volunteers, and graduate of West Point. This communication, although coming without a word of comment, created quite a disturbance in Colonel Stevenson's mind, and he set himself to work carefully reviewing his whole life, to see if he could find aught objectionable that his bitterest enemy could point to with scorn or contempt. Although in his forty-sixth year, he could find nothing in his whole life, nearly all of which had been passed in New

York, which he could not justify before the whole community. Feeling assured also of the respect and friendship of both the President and Secretary of War, he immediately telegraphed the latter that the command would sail on the 25th or 26th of September. Preparations for departure were hurried to completion.

The ships Thomas H. Perkins, Loo Choo, and Susan Drew having been chartered by the Secretary of War, and their lower holds filled with naval stores, munitions of war, grist and saw mills, and everything that was considered necessary for the conquest and retention of California, were only awaiting the embarkation of the troops to sail.

A meeting of the junior commanders with their superiors was held the day after the dispatch had been sent, which was on the 23d of September, and then Colonel Stevenson informed them of his determination to sail on the 25th. To this the officers demurred, they arguing that both the soldiers and sailors, being superstitious, would be greatly dissatisfied sailing on a Friday. Finally, these unexpected objections having due weight, the Colonel made the day of sailing one day later. This arrangement was to be kept an entire secret from both the line officers, soldiers and the sailors. The conference then adjourned. At its close a young friend of the Colonel's, for whom he had secured a position in the Sheriff's office, New York, came into the tent, laboring under much suppressed excitement, and began revealing a most dastardly and cunningly-contrived plot, designed to prevent Colonel Stevenson from accompanying his regiment. This young man, whom the Colonel had benefited so much, had not forgotten his benefactor, and now, when he found opportunity to do him a service, it was eagerly embraced. The startling intelligence that he brought was that some seventy or eighty of the discontented rejected applicants previously mentioned, had been induced by some influence to bring suits for false imprisoment against Colonel Stevenson, the damages claimed aggregating $80,000. The young man begged Colonel Stevenson not to reveal his informant's name, for if he did it would result in his losing his place. The whole matter was held as a secret in the Sheriff's office. In this the Colonel thought he discerned the work of the artful Sutherland and his Pennsylvania friends, and at once asked his informant if he had ever seen Sutherland in the Sheriff's office. He answered that he had, and that an officer of Colonel Stevensou's regiment had also been seen there. The writs of attachments in these suits were already to be served, and the Sheriff's officers were only waiting for the actual day of sailing to serve them upon the defendant.

Having placed his friend upon the lookout, the young man bade him adieu, after promising that if anything new transpired he would inform him of it. Immediately after the departure of his young friend orders were issued to break camp and to embark, and by nine o'clock on Thursday morning, the 24th, the entire command was aboard the transports, and the commander of the squadron's flag floated at the masthead of the Colonel's ship, where he had his headquarters. The first order issued on shipboard was that no one should be permitted to board or leave the ship, except by the written permission of the commanding officer. On Wednesday, after making all the arrangements for embarking, the Colonel sent word to his motherless daughters, residing at home, in Rutger's place, to meet him at twelve o'clock that night at the house of Frank Geroe, a friend in Brooklyn, to bid him good-by, as he would be unable to visit his home before sailing. Shortly before that hour the Colonel stepped into his boat, manned by six trusty men and a coxswain, all armed, including the Colonel, with pistols and cutlasses, and gave orders to pull for Brooklyn. The night being dark and the oars having been muffled the boat reached Brooklyn unobserved, and Colonel Stevenson had the pleasure of being with his three daughters for an hour, when he bade them a fond and affectionate farewell. The parting was most painful, but the young ladies, being cast in a heroic mood, strove to hide their feelings of sorrow from their sire and not add to his keen grief. Fondly and lovingly he kissed them good-by, then hastened to leave the soil of New York, which he has never since then set foot upon, and board his vessel. After the command had been gotten aboard the greatest precautions were at once taken to prevent any of the Sheriff's employees from serving any writs upon Colonel Stevenson. The Colonel's boat, with four well armed men in it, was stationed at the foot of the rope ladder, and orders were given that any person wanting to come on board should send up his card and business from this boat, and if any one attempted to force his way on board he should be seized and ironed.

Men were also stationed at four different parts of the vessel with a 32-pound shot within reach, with orders to sink any boat that persisted in making fast to the vessel after being ordered off. Several attempts were made by the Sheriff's officers to get on board to serve their writs, by means of sending up false messages, giving other than their own names, and other devices, not one of which deceived the grim Colonel, who was not to be caught with chaff. One party made a forcible attempt to get aboard, but a shot dropped between their boat and the ship by a guard, who immedi-

ately siezed another shot, as if to be more accurate, caused the adventurous craft to hastily pull away. All day Thursday and Friday this strict guard was kept up. On Thursday afternoon Colonel Stevenson called an old man-of-war's-man into his cabin, and, knowing that he could rely upon him, explained the situation to him, and placed him in charge of the ship's cannon, with instruction to select a corps to man each gun and to see that the cannons were carefully loaded with grape and cannister and kept ready for instant service. Through the Quartermaster at New York, Colonel Stevenson had ordered four steamers (tug-boats were then unknown) to be in readiness to tow the flotilla out at a given signal, which was to be two cannon shots in quick succession. These orders were given the captains of the steamers under the promise of secrecy, and no other soul on them knew of the duty they were to perform. Friday was, perhaps, the most anxious day of Colonel Stevenson's life. Still it is doubtful if living man could have learned it from his immobile features, calm voice or undisturbed manner. He gave audience to many of his friends, transacted business with others, and at half-past two closed his audience for the day and went on deck to make arrangements for doubling guards. Gathering a few of his trusty friends about him he explained the situation to them also, and told them that he intended to resist arrest at all hazards, even if the Sheriff's boat had to be blown out of the water. At about three o'clock a small steamer was sighted coming down East river, and apparently heading for the vessel. As she approached nearer and nearer the Colonel called Captain Turner's attention to it, and instructed him, in case she attempted to come alongside, to hail her and notify the man at the wheel that if he did not keep off he would be shot dead where he stood

A young German, formerly a soldier in the Prussian army, prompt and faithful, was placed in an advantageous position, and these orders given: At the word "Ready!" he was to raise his piece—which, with but a cap on it, combined with the snap of the lock, made a report loud as a derringer—and cock it. At the word "Aim!" he was to bring down his piece and to draw a bead upon the man in the pilot-house of the approaching steamer. All these directions were given the man in a loud tone, and could be distinctly heard on board the steamer. A tinkle of the bell, and she slowed down to come alongside, driven by her acquired force. Just then the officer of the day gave the sentinel the command of "Ready!" and up went the gun, the cocking of which sounded clear and determined. The order to aim immediately followed, when Captain Turner sung out to the steamer's pilot: "I will

give you five seconds to back your steamer; if she does not move you are a dead man!" The pilot looked but one second at the captain, another second was taken in glancing down that threatening gun barrel, and then clang went the bell, and the wheels of the steamer began rapidly to back water, and she moved off as quickly and as silently as she came, the man at the wheel not taking his eyes off that terrible gun until he was well out of range. That was the last attempt made to arrest Colonel Stevenson on that day. That evening he notified Captain Shields of the United States sloop of war "Preble," which vessel was to accompany his command, that he should sail early the following morning, the 26th, and also gave him a dispatch to be sent to the President and Secretary of War containing the same notification. That same evening Colonel Stevenson sent a messenger to notify the steamers he had engaged to be alongside at daylight to tow him out, and also to tell Deputy Sheriff A. M. C. Smith, who was on the steamer which attempted to come alongside of the "Perkins" that afternoon, that he (Colonel Stevenson) would never be arrested in that harbor, and that he intended to leave at the head of his command, peaceably if he could, forcibly if he must. The deputy then said to the messenger that the sheriff was out of town. He had been telegraphed the failure to arrest Colonel Stevenson, and had replied that he would return to the city by eight o'clock the next morning. The return of the messenger with this report quieted Colonel Stevenson's apprehensions, and he turned in, hoping that he could leave New York without bloodshed. At dawn on the 26th he was up and on deck awaiting the coming steamers. While thus waiting, an answer to the telegram sent the President and Secretary of War was received. It read as follows: "Your telegram received. Our answer is, God bless and speed you safely to your new home;" signed by President Polk and Secretary Marcy.

While this was being read, Robert Martin, news collector for the New York *Herald*, and personal friend of Colonel Stevenson, came on board, bringing with him the State flag and two guide colors, parts of a stand of colors that the officers of Colonel Stevenson's old militia regiment that he had commanded for twenty years, learning that the fleet was about to sail, had sent on board. Colonel Stevenson received the colors with thanks, and taking leave of Martin, gave orders to weigh anchor, and in a few moments, the steamers having come along side, the little flotilla began moving out down the Narrows. Just at this moment, as Colonel Stevenson was looking through his glass, at the immense concourse of people gathered on the Battery, he saw a large column of men

moving along pier No. 1 to the steamer lying at the end of the pier. This he correctly surmised to be a Sheriff's posse to arrest him. Towing the "Perkins," which had all sails set, were two powerful steamers, and with the advantage of an ebb tide it was hoped that she could not be overtaken. As the fleet passed out the Narrows, Fort Lafayette saluted and the ships responded. As the smoke of the canonading cleared away, the little steamer with the Sheriff's posse on board was seen rounding Governor's Island. She did not continue the chase long, for when the fleet rounded Sandy Hook naught could be seen of her, even through a glass. At about five miles out Colonel Stevenson signalled the vessels to heave to, and taking one of the steamers, visited in succession each one of them, bidding good-by to his captains, and leaving orders with them to rendezvous at Rio de Janeiro. When the steamer ranged alongside the "Susan Drew," he noticed that the officer intended as his successor by the Philadelphia politicians, and the same who had been seen at the Sheriff's office was in the mizzen chains, to be the first to have a parting clasp of the hands with Colonel Stevenson, who, however, in boarding, did not choose to notice his extended hand. When, however, this gentleman placed his hand in his, Colonel Stevenson looked him steadily in the eye. The officer at that glance flushed guiltily, and knew then that the Colonel was aware of his perfidity towards him. Slowly the checkmated man withdrew his hand and slunk away.

As a final salute, each of the ships manned the yards and their crews gave three vigorous cheers; then all sail was spread, and thus the regiment left New York for the far western shore. When it is remembered that this was the first army ever sent by the United States to subjugate and occupy a foreign territory, and that never before in the history of the world did a detachment of soldiers go so far to reach the enemy's country, the event becomes one of great historical interest. As the returning steamers faded from view, the brave and undaunted commander sought the solitude of his cabin, where, kneeling, he devotedly thanked his Creator for aiding him safely through the troubles of the few days past.

Always a sufferer from sea-sickness when at sea, Colonel Stevenson, admonished by premonitory symptoms of that unwelcome visitant, as the "Perkins" lost sight of land, hastened to make all preparations to resign himself, with as good grace as possible, to its consequences. Every part of the vessel was visited, and orders given the officers for a week ahead. None too soon were these precautions taken, for Colonel Stevenson had the inevitable attack, which confined him to his state-room for three days, and

when he reappeared on deck he was but the ghost of his former self, and was so weak that for many days he had to be supported by two sturdy soldiers. Others of the command also suffered from the same infliction. Another of the evils of a long voyage is scurvy. This was well guarded against, however, great care being taken that plenty of wholesome food, and in variety, should be served out. The result of this was that nothing of the kind appeared. All the officers messed together, with the exception of the master of the ship, Captain Arthur. This officer, an eccentric personage, was a German by birth, but he had mingled so freely with the people of all nations, that his nationality was a matter of speculation. He was also most penurious and ill tempered, and when out of humor, which happened often, he was perfectly unbearable.

Previous to sailing, he asked permission to join the officers' mess, adding that he could purchase a supply of pigs, chickens and ducks, cheaper than its members could. The proposition was acceded to, and the captain proceeded to lay in much live stock and poultry. He, however, delayed joining the mess until well out to sea, and when, about a week after sailing, it was proposed that he should unite with the mess, and that the event should be celebrated by a chicken dinner, he coolly informed the astonished officers that he had changed his mind, and had concluded not to join the mess. If they wanted any chickens, however, he would sell the mess any number at fair prices. The officers, disgusted at his conduct, did not press him to join the mess, but they bartered for his chickens. Here again they were astonished, for the price asked for the chickens was fully three times that which he had paid for them, so they concluded not to purchase, consigning both the captain and his fowls to hades. This unexpected determination on the part of his intended victims proved unfortunate for the petty speculator; for, the soldiers and crew, learning the trick he had served the officers, also declined to buy a single fowl from him. This was not the extent of his loss, either; for, although he did not sell a chicken, he soon witnessed them rapidly disappear, owing to numerous midnight raids, until at last not a feather of them was left. The young and succulent pips, too, grew so large and fat, that they had to be killed and salted down. No other instance of pilfering on the part of the command was recorded on the voyage. During the passage the best of discipline was maintained, and there were few violations of the rules. The command, with one exception, paid strict attention to them. This exception was a sergeant of one of the companies. An order had

been issued that each solder should be in his bunk by nine o'clock, ready to turn in at the tap of the drum. This sergeant, in giving the order to his detachment, supplemented it with the remark, "I have given you the order, and I don't care a ——— whether you obey it or not." This remark was repeated to Colonel Stevenson, who at once reduced the man to the ranks, and detailed him for police duty, which was to clean up the ship. This duty he refused to perform, and so he was ordered triced up by the thumbs and wrists; and the order was also given to keep him in that position until he was ready to make a proper apology for his conduct. This he refused to do, and when his captain tried to reason with him he cursed and swore like a pirate. He was then left alone to come to his senses, but was visited hourly by the ship's surgeon, who, from time to time, reported on his physical condition.

As might have been expected, the punishment of the fractious sergeant caused a murmur of discontent forward, until at length, seeking to frighten Colonel Stevenson into relaxing his severity, Captain Folsom, who had before presumed on his superior's friendship, entered his cabin, and in rather an insolent manner said to him: "Colonel Stevenson, do you know that there will be a mutiny on this vessel this afternoon?"

"No, sir," replied Colonel Stevenson; "but I do know that there will not be a mutiny on board this ship this afternoon; and further, Captain Folsom, you know that I sleep over one hundred barrels of gunpowder, but you do not know, sir, that I have a train laid from that powder to my berth?"

"What?" stammered the captain. "Colonel Stevenson, you surely do not mean to say ———"

"Yes, sir, I do, and you can rest assured that before I will suffer the command of this vessel to pass from me there will not be a plank left for a soul on board to cling to; and now, sir, let the mutiny proceed!"

Pale as a spectre, and with his eyes fairly emerging from their sockets, the thoroughly alarmed officer hastily excused himself, and hurried forward, where he, no doubt, imparted the fearful threat he had just heard to the malcontents waiting there, who, if they had ever entertained mutinous ideas, quickly discarded them. The feeling of discontent, however was not crushed. At roll call that evening, and while the men, mustered on deck, were being inspected, the soldier undergoing punishment, moaned as if in pain. At this his bunk-mate, who was standing in line close by, brought his piece to the deck in a forcible manner, and exclaimed, "By G—, I would like to see the man that would serve me—" whack

came a blow, given quick as lightning by Colonel Stevenson, who, in passing, had caught the sentence ere it was finished, and, with a thud, the mutinous soldier fell doubled up in a heap upon the deck. Then calmly ordering a sergeant to incarcerate the fallen man in the ship's prison, and keep him on bread and water for ten days, Colonel Stevenson quietly proceeded with the inspection. This display of courage and firmness had a wholesome effect on the discontented men and on the triced-up sergeant, who soon after sent word to Colonel Stevenson that he was anxious to make the apology demanded, and, on that officer's appearing, did so most humbly. He was then released, and from that time on both he and the rest of the rebellious spirits behaved themselves as well as the most orderly of the command. Thus ended the mutiny predicted by Captain Folsom.

The next event of any importance was the birth of a female child. This was born to the wife of Quartermaster-Sergeant Stephen Harris. On the same day, also, the "Perkins" fell in with her convoy, the sloop "Preble," Captain Shields. The officers and crew of this vessel, on learning of the infantile arrival, requested permission to name the little stranger, which, being granted, the name of Alta California was chosen for her, and so three vigorous cheers were given for little Miss Alta California Harris by both ships' crews. A few days later, on the 20th of November, the two vessels having in the meantime parted company, the "Perkins" entered the bay of Rio de Janeiro, where the "Susan Drew," the "Loo Choo" and the "Preble" were found to have arrived, and were at anchor. Here was also the United States man-of-war, "Columbia," flagship of Commodore Rosseau, commanding the Brazilian squadron. When the "Perkins" dropped anchor all the vessels manned yards, and saluted in man-of-war style. Shortly after, an officer was sent from the "Perkins" to report to Commodore Rosseau, who soon afterwards visited Colonel Stevenson. The "Perkins" was also boarded by the Brazilian authorities, who requested that the commander of the "Perkins" would honor them by exchanging salutes with their forts. Their exchange of courtesies was agreed upon, to take place the following day. A communication received soon after from Commodore Rosseau, however, made it necessary to cancel the arrangement. This communication was to the effect that owing to a difficulty between the Brazilian Government and Hon. H. A. Wise, United States Minister at Rio de Janeiro, all diplomatic intercourse between the two nations had been suspended. The communication ended by saying that as Colonel Stevenson

commanded an independent expedition, he could act as he pleased in the matter. That commander, without hesitation, resolved to support Minister Wise, and so sent a messenger ashore to the Brazilian officials to say that it would not be desirable to exchange salutes as agreed upon. The following day the United States officers in port in a body, upon invitation, visited the various Foreign Embassies in that city, but no notice was taken of the Brazilian officials

This slight did not serve to mollify the people of Brazil in the least, and the breach was further widened in the christening of the protege of the expedition, which took place the next day. Extensive preparations were made for that event. The officers of the "Preble" selected an elegant silver cup, suitably engraved, and issued invitations to all of the United States officials to attend the christening of Miss Alta California Harris, to take place on board the "Columbia," the fleet chaplain officiating. The vessel selected was gaily decorated for the occasion, and at the hour set, all invited were present to participate in the honor to be done the daughter of an humble soldier of a great republic. All were aware that the child was born famous, for was she not the first child ever born whose father formed part of the first expedition of armed American colonists soldiers ever sent by their government to conquer and occupy a foreign province? Minister Wise was to stand godfather, and he and the child's parents, Commodore Rosseau, Colonel Stevenson and the chaplain, occupied a central position on the deck. The interesting ceremony was performed, and Minister Wise followed in a speech. Unfortunately, in concluding, he drew a comparison between the christening of a daughter of an American soldier and a similar event which had taken place on shore a few days previous in which the "royal bantling of the Brazilian Nation," as he termed the child, had been the principal. The ceremony on the "Columbia" was concluded by hearty cheering and the firing of salutes from every vessel in the fleet. The insult—so regarded—offered by Minister Wise, coming to the knowledge of the Court of Brazil, a cabinet meeting was called, and the question of ordering every American vessel out of the port was debated. Learning of this proposed action, Colonel Stevenson visited first the most distant vessel of his fleet, and in a speech to the officers and men, countermanded the order allowing a portion of the command liberty on shore each day, and explaining matters said that he expected that Commodore Rosseau would refuse to obey the order. In that case it would be his duty to stand by him, and that a conflict between their vessels and the

vessels and batteries of Brazil would be inevitable. That being the case, he said that the next time they went ashore it would be with fixed bayonets. This announcement had an electrical effect upon the men. They jumped into the rigging and uttered cheer after cheer. Those on the nearest vessel, while not understanding the cause of the outburst, became excited also, and they, too, joined in the enthusiastic hurrah. And thus, from vessel to vessel, cheer followed cheer, and when Colonel Stevenson was rowed to each ship in turn, and they also were told the news, the men knowing the cause of the outburst, cheered louder than before. All this time the scene on shore was of the liveliest nature.

Upon the quay fully 20,000 people had gathered, curious to know what the Americans were growing so demonstrative about. Then, after waiting till the excitement had subsided on shipboard, the swarming piers gradually grew less crowded, until finally the docks resumed their wonted appearance. A few hours after Commodore Rosseau thanked Colonel Stevenson, in person, for his proffered aid, and told him that he (Colonel Stevenson) had interpreted correctly what his action would be in case the decree was made. No such summary step as contemplated by the Brazilian authorities was ever taken, for the Emperor of Brazil opposed the issuance of such an order, but insisted on demanding the recall of Minister Wise by the United States Government, which demand was subsequently acceded to. A careful and complete report of his own action in the affair was forwarded the Secretary of War by Colonel Stevenson, an acknowledgment, without comment, of the receipt of which was duly received by him when he arrived in California. A few days after this episode the sailing orders were given to the fleet, and the four vessels once again breasted the ocean with all sail set, bound round the Horn. Nothing further of importance transpired on board the "Perkins" during the remainder of the voyage. The health and discipline of the Command were perfect. Favored with fair weather and fresh breezes the good ship rapidly neared her destination, until in the latter part of February, 1847, the welcome shores of California appeared in the horizon. A few days sail along the coast brought the vessel off the heads, and on the 6th of March, 1847, the "Perkins" sailed proudly through the Golden Gate, and at three o'clock rounded to and came to an anchor opposite the little town of Yerba Buena. The United States sloop of-war, "Cyane," Captain Dupont, was in the harbor, and from its officers Colonel Stevenson learned that the town was held by a detachment of the United States Marine Corps, under Lieutenant Tansell. General Stephen W. Kearney, commanding the

Department of the Pacific was at Monterey, and to him Colonel Stevenson sent a courier announcing his arrival.

On arriving at San Francisco, and learning that General Kearney had arrived in California, and had established his headquarters at Monterey. He immediately dispatched Captain Stevenson to Monterey with a communication for the Commanding General. Upon the return of Captain Stevenson from Monterey, the Colonel received orders as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, TENTH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, March 12th, 1847.

ORDERS No. 4.

I. The Seventh Regiment New York Volunteers intended for service in California (a part of which has arrived at San Francisco, and the remainder are daily expected), will tske posts as follows:

II. The Colonel of the regiment, with his regimental staff, and four (4) companies at Monterey.

The Lieut.-Colonel, with three (3) companies at Santa Barbara, and the Major with the remaining three companies at the Presidio, in the Bay of San Francisco.

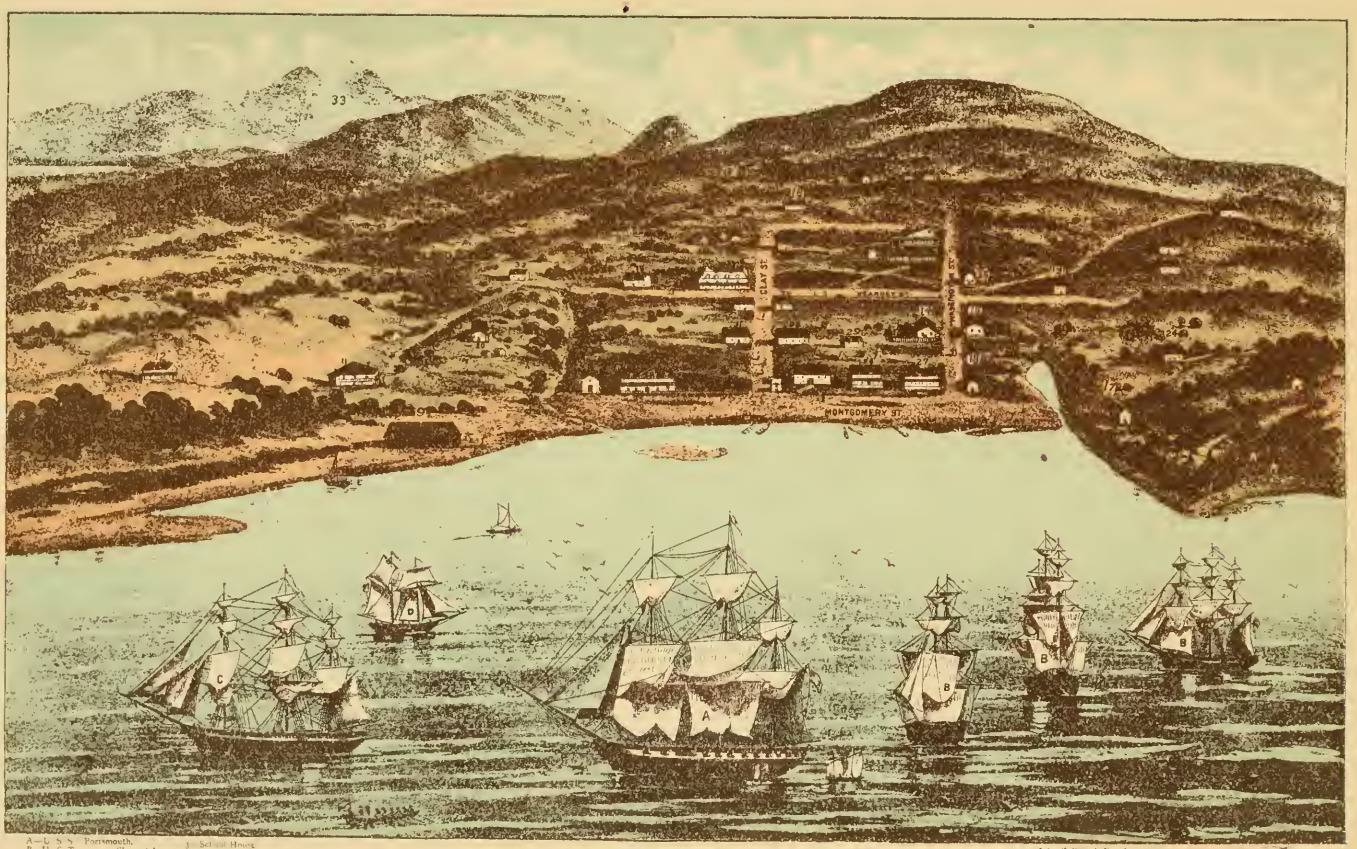
Special instructions will be given to each of these field officers, who will keep the medical officers with them, who have accompanied them from New York.

S. W. KEARNEY,
Brigadier General.

Having distributed the command, and having seen them all embarked for their several posts, as designated on the morning of the 8th of April, Colonel Stevenson embarked on board the United States sloop-of-war "Lexington" for Monterey, where he arrived on the 9th, landed his battalion, and assumed command of the post.

Two weeks later a courier arrived from Los Angeles, bringing news that the Mexican General Bustamento, was on the march with a large force, to retake California from the American forces, and soon after the arrival of this news, he was ordered to take a portion of his command and proceed to Los Angeles, to assume command of the Southern Military District.

On the 8th of May the Colonel, accompanied by General Kearney, embarked on board the United States sloop-of-war "Lexington" for Los Angeles, and arrived at San Pedro, its seaport, on the morning of the 10th, and immediately landed, and commenced the march for Los Angeles, which was reached on the



VIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO, FORMERLY YERBA BUENA, IN 1846-7

BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD

WE THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PICTURE IS A FAITHFUL AND ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF SAN FRANCISCO AS IT REALLY APPEARED IN MARCH 1847

J. D. Stevenson
COMMANDING 1ST REGT OF N.Y. VOLS IN THE WAR WITH MEXICO

Jon. M. G. Vallejo

George Hyde
FIRST ALCALDE DIST OF SAN FRANCISCO 1846-7

A—U. S. S. Portsmouth.
B—U. S. Transports Ships "Loo Choo," "Susan Drew" and "Thomas H. Perkins" They brought the 1st Regiment of New York Vols, Col. J. D. Stevenson commanding
C—Ship Vandalia — merchantman consigned to Howard & Mellus
D—Coasting Schooner.
E—Launch "Luce", belonging to James Lick
1—Custom House
2—Calaboose.
3—School House
4—Alcalde's Office
5—City Hotel owned by Wm. A. Leidesdorff
6—Portsmouth Hotel
7—Wm. H. Davis Store
8—Howard & Mellus Store The old Hudson Bay Co's Building
9—W. A. Leidesdorff's Warehouse
10—Samuel Brannan's Residence
11—W. A. Leidesdorff's Cottage
12—First Residence of the Russian family
13—John Sullivan's Residence
14—Peter T. Sherback's do do
15—Juan C. Davis' do do
16—G. Reynolds' do.
17—A. J. Ellis Boarding House.
18—Fitch & McKinley's building
19—Capt. Vioget's Residence.
20—John Fuller's Residence
21—Jesus Noe's do
22—Juan N. Padilla's do
23—A. A. Andrew's do.
24—Capt. Antonio Ortega's Residence
25—Francisco Cacerra's Residence.
26—Capt. Wm. Hinckley's do.
27—Gen. M. G. Vallejo's building
28—C. L. Ross' building
29—Mill
30—Capt. John Paty's Adobe building
31—Doctor E. P. Jones Residence
32—Robert Kelley's Residence.
33—Los Pechos de la Choco.
34—Lone Mountain
35—Sitt's Blacksmith Shop.
←→Trail to Presidio
←→Trail to Mission Dolores

ARTO-TYPE. SCHMIDT LABEL & LITHO. CO. S. F.

same evening, and on the morning of the 11th, he assumed command of the Post and Military Department, Major Hunt relieving Major St. George Cook of the command of the Mormon Battalion, thus leaving the Southern District of California under Colonel Stevenson's command, Lieutenant-Colonel Burton, with three companies of the Colonel's regiment; Company F, First Regiment United States Dragoons, Captain A. J. Smith ; Company C, Captain Taylor ; Company G, Captain M. R. Stevenson ; Major Hunt, with four companies of the Mormon Battalion of Volunteers ; and one company of the Mormon Battalion, under the command of Captain Hunter, stationed at San Diego.

The Mormon Battalion had been enlisted for one year, and their term of service expired on or about the 15th of July, 1847. Colonel Stevenson immediately advised Colonel Mason, who had succeeded General Kearney in command of the Department, of the short time these troops had to serve. Although everything was peaceable and quiet at that time, there were many discontented spirits who would readily encourage an outbreak the moment 500 men were mustered out of service, which would reduce the entire force in the Southern Department to about 250 rank and file.

Realizing what would be the weakness of his command when the Mormons should be disbanded, Colonel Stevenson at once called together all the responsible merchants and ranchers in Los Angeles and within twenty miles, and when all had arrived, he clearly explained to them what would be his system of government while in command, which would be until the close of the war, when, if California became a part of the United States, they would become American citizens if they so elected, and if they now preserved a quiet and peaceful deportment, and made no attempt at an outbreak or doing any act that would justify him in continuing the war, he would pay a reasonable price for anything he received from them, and he would protect them in all their rights of person and property. If on the other hand, they violated this agreement, he would stop paying for what he received from them, and would take what he wanted without payment, and would treat them as a conquered province, under martial law. All agreed willingly to his liberal proposition as they expressed it, and were willing to sign any document he might prepare guaranteeing their good faith, and they would give him immediate warning if any attempt was made to violate this agreement, that he might check it at once. Colonel Stevenson then told them that he required no written pledge, but he should rely upon their word of honor until he had substantial reason to doubt their good faith.

The news of this agreement was immediately spread throughout the lower country, and those who had not been able to attend the meeting in time waited upon the Colonel and assured him of their hearty approval of the agreement and pledged their word to maintain it.

Among the first who called on the Colonel, after this meeting, was Don Andreas Pico, who commanded the Californians when they attacked General Kearney. He was the idol of the whole country, and one of the most frank, hightoned and honorable gentlemen the Colonel ever met in California or elsewhere, and he will never forget his look when he entered his quarters for the first time. As he entered the door of the Colonel's room, he fixed his eye steadily upon his, placed his right hand upon his heart, and was about to make a low and formal bow. Before he could do it, Colonel Stevenson anticipated his intent, advanced toward him and extended his right hand, in the frankest manner, and with his brightest smile. The moment Pico saw this, he advanced quickly, seized the Colonel's hand, with both his, and was about to raise it to his lips, when Colonel Stevenson anticipated him, and opened his arms to receive him, he immediately opened his own, and they stood a few moments in as warm embrace as ever one man gave another, when their arms dropped. Pico stepped back, retaining the Colonel's hand. He thanked him for his generosity to his countrymen, and heartily endorsed the compact, and said in the noblest and manliest words he could command, that ifever one of his countrymen forgot or failed to keep it, and an arm was raised to resist the Colonel or his orders, he would find him by his side ready to spill his blood for him.

Thus every apprehension of any attempt at an outbreak was quited, for General Pico made it known throughout the district that the Colonel and he were *dos muchachos hermanos* (two boy brothers), and that any attempt at an attack upon the one, would be regarded as an attack upon both ; and if it became necessary for the Colonel's protection he would, with his own hand, kill the offender, and lose his life in Colonel Stevenson's defense.

From the moment of his interview with Don Andreas, early in May, 1847, until he took his departure for Monterey about September 20th, 1848, Colonel Stevenson felt that he and the entire command were as safe from danger of attack by the enemy as they would have been on Governor's Island in New York Harbor.

When the Missions were secularized, there were many of the Indians who could talk, read and write Spanish. Some of them had settled near the Agro Calinento Pass. About the time of my

interview with the Rancheros, two of the principal Mission Indians came to me and offered to give me notice of any Mexicans coming into the country by way of Warner's Pass, and all new comers, without any charge, if I would see that their men were not ill-treated by the Californians when they brought me any news.

In this arrangement I had a perfect knowledge of every man that crossed the line between Mexico and Lower California.

I found this arrangement with the Indian runners a most valuable one without cost, except the food I gave them when they came in, and I always received news of every fight between the Mexican and American troops in Mexico from the same source, and was thus able to forward it to Colonel Mason long before he received it through any other channel.

[Letter of Col. Stevenson to Col. Mason in behalf of the men of his regiment.]

HEAD-QUARTERS SOUTHERN MILITARY DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA,

Los Angeles, California, August 20, 1848.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several communications of the 8th, and proclamation of the 7th instant, together with department orders Nos. 50 and 52, announcing the conclusion of a treaty of peace between the United States and Mexico, and containing instructions for the disbanding of the First Regiment New York Volunteers under my command. Earnestly as all have desired such an event, the very sudden and unexpected termination of our services has surprised us all, and found many a poor fellow, who has served his country faithfully for more than two years, without a dollar beyond the small amount of pay that will be due them at the time of their discharge; and if they pay the few small debts they owe here, they will not have money sufficient to buy a pair of shoes; and I know that many, if not all at this post, possess so high a sense of honor that they would go barefooted rather than leave in debt to any one in the town. Thank God, all here have acted honorably and fairly to the people of the country, and I trust they will do so to the end. Yet, hard as their case is, they do not complain of the want of anything but the means of defence; for when they are disbanded, not ten men will have either a gun or pistol; and I assure you, great fears are entertained, and not without just cause, that they will be wanted, as well for their defence against Indians as against some miserable wretches of the country, who already threaten not only

to attack all Americans, but the families of the people of the country who have been friendly to us. My men complain that the Mormons retained their arms, and were allowed transportation to the Salt Lake, for seven months' service, and supplied with twenty rounds of cartridges each, while they, who have served more than two years and traveled thousands of miles on the ocean to come here in the service of their country, are to be discharged without an arm for their defence, or a dollar of commutation; and some of them (the last recruits) had their arms taken from them at Monterey, which, unless you have sent them down in the "Anita," they will, in all human probability, never receive. Soon after I arrived in this country, in a frank conversation with General Kearny on this very subject, he assured me that my men should be allowed to retain their arms, as he had no doubt if it had been suggested to the authorities at home before sailing, it would have been authorized, as they were intended for, and would become permanent residents of the country. He said he made the stipulation with the Mormons, and he felt authorized to make it with me for my men; and the day he left here for the United States he assured me that he would leave such instructions with you as would insure it. A very large number of my men here must remain until they can raise the means of reaching the upper country, or go up on foot; which would be a most toilsome and perilous journey, unarmed as they will be. Under these circumstances, I have deemed it my duty to present you their most earnest appeal that you will allow them to retain their arms, and that fifteen days' rations of such stores as are at the post may be served out to them on the day they are disbanded. They would not ask this favor of the government if they could in any manner dispose of the land or money script. I present this, their petition, most cheerfully, because I feel that they more than deserve it at the hands of their government; for no soldiers, either regulars or volunteers, have ever surpassed them in correct, honorable and manly deportment, or in a most faithful and diligent discharge of the duty required of them as soldiers.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. STEVENSON,
Colonel 1st New York Regiment,
Commanding Southern Military District.

To Colonel R. B. Mason,
1st United States Dragoons, Governor of California.

[Extract of Letter of Col. Mason to the Adjutant-General of the Army.]

HEADQUARTERS, TENTH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, June 17, 1846.

* * * * * * * *

This regiment, you are aware, had been strung from Sonoma in the north to San Jose, in Lower California, during their whole time of service in this quarter. The companies stationed at La Paz (Steele's and Matsell's) held that town for many weeks against four times their numbers; and the very moment they were reinforced by Naglee's company with additionrl recruits, they took the field under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Burton, routed the enemy, completely dispersed them, and restored peace to the peninsula. Colonel Burton speaks highly of the courage and coolness of his men ando fficers underfire; and I refer you to his report for individual acts of gallantry. Lieutenant Colonel Burton, throughout his whole conduct whilst in command of the forces in Lower California, completely executed his instructions, which were based upon the orders from the War Department; and as his reports and copies of his instructions are already in your office, I need only add my present approval of his conduct. He is now on duty at this place, in command of his company F, 3d Artillery.

Colonel J. D. Stevenson, since April, 1847, has been in command of the district of country embracing Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and San Diego, has by energy and good management, maintained most excellent discipline amongst his men, and has preserved harmony amongst the population of that district, which is composed mostly of the native Californians. This required peculiar tact and firmness—qualities possessed by him in a peculiar degree. I will warrant that at no previous time in that district were life and property so secure, the magistrates of the country so effectually supported, and industry so encouraged, as during the past two years; one common cry of regret arose at the order for their disbandment; the little petty causes of complaint were forgotten in the remembrance of the more substantial advantages they had enjoyed under the protection of the military. Subalterns and men are entitled to share with their commander the honor due for this creditable state of feeling on the part of a people nominally conquered. That part of California lying on the bay of San Francisco has been under the command of the Major of the regiment, James A. Hardie, who has effectually aided the civil authorities, dispelled the fears of the threatened Indian incursions, and guarded the heavy depot at San Francisco—duties which were performed

to the best advantage with the limited force at his command. His officers and men were generally attentive to their duties, and anxious to serve the United States.

* * * * * * * *

R. B. MASON,
Colonel 1st Dragoons, Commanding.

To Brig. Gen. R. Jones,
Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

[Extract from "The Recollections of Captain Nelson Taylor, Company E, Stevenson's Regiment.]

In closing this brief sketch of my recollection of that portion of the regiment with which I served, it is my desire to pay a well merited tribute to a worthy officer, that was the Colonel of the regiment, Jonathan D. Stevenson.

Doubtless, with the experience he now has, if called upon to organize and command another regiment he would leave undone many things which he felt called upon to do, and do many others which he left undone. Such, I believe to be the feeling of most men having had the experience of organizing and commandinn regiments; but upon a careful review of his coloneley, I entertaig the opinion that few volunteer officers who served during the Mexican War, acquitted themselves with more advantage to the Government, or greater credit to themselves.

It is true he performed no brilliant military achievement in the field, where honor is sought at the cannon's mouth; his lines happened to fall in more pleasant places; yet, if occasion had called for it, and opportunity offered, there is no doubt but that his field services would have been as distinguished and creditable as was his civil administration satisfactory to the citizens of his military district. To his superior administrative and executive ability is due, in my humble opinion, the peace and good order that prevailed so uninterruptedly throughout the lower portion of Upper California after he assumed the command of that district.

His intercourse with those who were brought in contact with him officially or otherwise, was ever characterized with the easy and agreeable courtesy which betokens a well-bred gentleman, and which deservedly made him popular, both with the soldiers of his command and the citizens of his military district.

It is many years since it was my good pleasure to meet the

Colonel, whom, I learn, still remains a citizen of the Golden State, and which he has never left for a single day, since he first landed on its shores in command of our regiment. Let him reside where he may, he has my best wishes for all the worldly prosperity and mental contentment which can fall to the lot of man.

Truly yours,

NELSON TAYLOR,

Formerly Captain of Co. E.

After my muster out of the United States service, at the close of the Mexican War, I decided to remain in California, and assist in building up the fair land I had helped our Government to conquer, but as ever before my energies were always directed toward that which seemed to me to be for the greatest good of our National Government, and for the great State that was growing up around me, and to this end I devoted both time and money in advancing the interests of California, in projecting surveys of our inland waters and the surrounding country, which would induce a permanent class of emigrants to locate and build up our State.

When the war of the Rebellion broke out in the East, and our country again needed the support and help of her loyal citizens.

FIRING ON FORT SUMTER.

When I read on the bulletin board that Fort Sumter had been fired upon while our country's flag was flying over it, my memory went back to an occurrence that took place at the death-bed of my gallant sailor father, who in his youth had been an impressed American seaman, and compelled to serve on board an English man-of-war a number of years during the war between England and France. On one occasion, while on board the English man-of-war, "Lapwing," in chase of a brig in the China seas, the brig would not show her colors, but finally displayed the stars and stripes, and the officer of the deck ordered my father, who was the captain of a forcastle gun, to "fire at the damned Yankee." My father refused to fire a gun, saying: "No, sir! that is my country's flag, and my arm may fall palsied by my side before I will apply a match to a gun to send a messenger of death at that flag, or anything it floats over." The officer said: "Do you dare refuse to do your duty under the British Union?" My father replied: "Yes, sir, and I never shall be happy until I see the stars and stripes flying over the British Union." He was immedialy put in irons where he remained for a period of many months, when he was tried by a court for high treason; the court sentenced him to

receive two dozen lashes on his back on board of each ship, thus inflicting upon him six dozen lashes upon his bare back, because he would not fire upon his country's flag. The scars caused by this flagellation ever remained upon his back. In the month of December, 1823, he was about to die, his head was resting upon my shoulder, and while he was committing my mother and her children to my care, my arm accidentally slipped from his back, and in falling, pressed upon those scars; he felt it, and instantly raised his head erect, seized my shoulder with a firm and vigorous grip, pushed me from him, and, looking me firmly in the eye,, said: "Boy, I received those scars in defense of my country's flag, and if you ever fail to defend it, or raise your arm against it, and if God will permit my spirit to revisit the earth, I will haunt you," and immediately his head dropped upon my shoulder, and his spirit passed to God who gave it. With the natural feeling swelling in my bosom at that time, could I remain with the Democratic party, and affiliate with those who had fired upon the old flag, in defense of which my dead father had suffered so much?

I tendered my services to the War Department, referring to my record as a Military Commander during the Mexican War. To my communicatiou I received the annexed reply from the Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War:

War Department, June 13th, 1861.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th ult., with enclosure, offering to raise a regiment or brigade in California for service in that State. The Department has full confidence in your ability to command such a force and in your loyalty to the Government, so well attested by your former well-known services; but it cannot at present give the leave asked for to raise the proposed regiment or brigade. Circumstances may hereafter occur to render such a step necessary, but existing circumstances do not seem to warrant it.

Respectfully,

Simon Cameron,

To Col. J. D. Stevenson, Sec. of War.

But while the General Government did not accept of my services in the field, I was able by my watchfulness and attention to matters effecting its interest on this Coast, to render the most important services. When the Secession sympathizers were about to put into operation a scheme, the object of which was the founding of a Pacific Republic, it was through my exertions that their vile plottings were frustrated, and the supremacy of the Government

upheld on this Coast; for the details, and history of the part I took in this important work, I beg leave to refer you to the following truthful article taken from the San Francisco Evening *Post* of October 9th, 1880:

THE TRUE STORY

HOW CALIFORNIA WAS SAVED TO THE UNION.

THE BLUNDER OF THE SECESSONISTS AND WHAT FOLLOWED—CHARLES DOANE'S MIDNIGHT VISIT TO COLONEL J. D. STEVENSON.

PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION TAKEN.

IMPORTANT PART PLAYED BY DAVE SCANNELL AND THE FIRE BOYS—GENERAL JOHNSTON NOTIFIED—A CONFERENCE OF HIGH OFFICIALS—QUIET SUBSIDENCE OF THE PLOTTERS OF TREASON.

The chapter of "unwritten history" that appeared in our issue of Saturday, the 25th of September, in which is narrated why General Sumner came secretly to San Francisco, and how California was saved from the horrors of civil war, is said not to be entirely and exactly true, because California was not saved from the horrors of civil war by the sudden arrival of General Sumner, for the simple reason that the civil war referred to had been silently and quietly crushed out some days before the General reached San Francisco. Every other part of the chapter referred to is no doubt strictly true, for

EDMOND RANDOLPH

Did not give to the editor of the Sacramento *Bee* his mere impressions of what the Democratic party of the state—with all the federal offices in their possession, and with General Johnston in command of the military forces in the Department of the Pacific—might do, but was stating *what he actually knew was being done at that very moment* to inaugurate a civil war in California. He well knew that all, or nearly all, the federal officers in the State of

California were Southerners—many of them most unscrupulous—and that men were being enrolled and arms purchased for their use. Also, he knew that special parties had been detailed by this band of traitors to ascertain the precise character, position and condition of all guns at Alcatraz that could be brought to bear on the city of San Francisco. So, also, were parties detailed to visit the arsenal at Benicia, to ascertain the character and condition especially of the small arms that were stored there and ready for immediate use. This committee made themselves perfectly familiar with the location and accessibility of the arsenal buildings in which arms were stored. The mode and manner of obtaining all this information, both at Benicia and Alcatraz, were most ingenious and pleasant, as the committees appointed for that purpose, when they visited those places, were

ACCOMPANIED BY LADIES,

Who were, no doubt, previously advised of the importance of the visits they were about to make. Parties of ladies and gentlemen were never refused permission to land at Alcatraz or to enter the arsenal at Benicia; and not only the officer in charge, but all others at those posts, were ever most gallant gentlemen, and promptly offered themselves as escorts to the ladies, showing them the curiosities of the place, and pointing out the superb views both of sea and inland, from those points. Thus the gentlemen visitors were relieved of all restraint and permitted to wander where they pleased about the premises, and make all the notes and sketches of the most accessible and assailable points of both these important military posts. This knowledge was indispensably necessary in order to make a prompt, and, perhaps, midnight attack successful, which might have been done with even a small force of resolute and determined men under the command of an experienced soldier—and there were many such in the ranks of the desperate band which had determined to take California out of the Union under the pretense of creating

A PACIFIC REPUBLIC

Out of the State of California and other continguous territory. About the time the conversation between Edmond Randolph and his friend took place, as detailed in our chapter of unwritten history, other and more important movements were being made at San Francisco to enable this band of traitors to perfect all their arrangements for a successful raid upon Fort Alcatraz, the arsenal and public stores at Benicia, the Custom House, Postoffice and

Mint in San Francisco, all of which would have been captured, perhaps, without the slightest resistance, and they had all things ready to move, except a proper man to lead them. The leader for so important an expedition, it was admitted on both sides, should be some citizen of high character for integrity and firmness, in whom the Democratic party had full confidence, and who at the time was not a soldier, but had some experience in military matters. For this important post many were named who did not fill the bill so perfectly as would a gallant soldier of the Mexican war, who at that time held the most important municipal office in the city of San Francisco, which had been given him by an almost unanimous vote of the Democratic party at the previous election. He was by all regarded an uncompromising secessionist of Southern birth. The moment his name was mentioned to the committee charged with the selection of a leader, he was

UNANIMOUSLY DECLARED THE PROPER MAN

for the place, and immediately a sub-committee was appointed to wait upon him and announce the supposititious honor conferred upon him by the unanimous voice of the representatives of the Southern Confederation in California. Upon the afternoon of the day the committees were appointed for that purpose, they waited upon him in his office at the old City Hall, and were shown into his private room. He was informed that the committee desired to confer with him privately, and thereupon one of his deputies, who had a desk in his office, arose and left the room. Being thus left alone, the chairman of the committee arose and informed him of the honor sought to be conferred upon him by the united voice of the Southern Democracy of California, at the same time handing him a roll of the men he was to command, giving him at the same time in detail a full and clear account of all that had been done; a list of the arms purchased, and where they had been stored, and the names of the persons who were to guarantee the needed money for all purposes, until the conspirators should be in full possession of the government funds. After a few moments' reflection, he informed the committee that the position they had called upon him to assume was one of too great moment to be accepted without careful reflection and thought, and the responsibility was too great to be lightly assumed. He, therefore,

REQUIRED TIME FOR CONSIDERATION.

It was then about three o'clock in the day, and he asked until 2:30 P. M. of the following day to give them his decisive answer

whether he would accept or decline the honor they intended to confer upon him. Upon receiving this reply the committee retired, when he immediately left his office, and, walking out of the city, wandered among the hills surrounding it until dark, constantly racking his brain meantime to think of some way of avoiding the responsibility thus sought to be thrust upon him. The people who had placed him in the position evidently believed him to be a Southern born man, inheriting all their prejudices and hatred of the North and Northern rulers; whereas the fact was that he was a Northern born man, and had an inborn feeling against secession in any form. Therefore, if he made this open avowal and declined the proffered honor, and bluntly declared his true sentiments, he would be regarded as a treacherous spy, and his life would not be safe an hour. If he should decline it without an explanation, some other, and, perhaps, more desperate man would be found to take the command of the Confederate forces, and a civil war would be immediately commenced in the midst of the now peaceful and happy community of San Francisco. The confidence thus placed in him he could not confidentially communicate to army officers of the general government stationed in San Francisco, because he believed them to be leagued with the desperate secessionists that were about to plunge the country in civil war. After laboring with his thoughts for hours, he returned home, and

ENDEAVORED TO THINK OF SOME MAN

So strong in the confidence of the people in San Francisco that they would give him their support in an attempt to crush out this Confederate crew, and in his thoughts he analyzed the character of every man of any prominence in this city. Finally, the name of one occurred to him who had seen some military service, and had the confidence of the authorities of the city, State and nation. This man was known to be both morally and physically as brave as any man residing within the bounds of the State. His integrity was unquestioned, and his patriotism had been often tried and never found wanting. His assumption of the leadership of a party opposed to the machinations of the Southern Confederates assured to his standard a host of gallant men, who had served under him in California, and in the war with Mexico.

THE HEROES OF THE PRESENT STORY.

Right here it is necessary to a clear narrative of the facts that the names of the actors in this patriotic struggle should be given in full. Inasmuch as the time has passed when any harm can come

to any of the parties involved on either side by reason of their action in the years long gone, it is also eminently proper that record should be made in favor of the brave citizens who placed their lives in jeopardy in order to save this city and State from the horrors of internecine strife. They are, therefore, now declared. Charles Doane, Sheriff of San Francisco, was the true and honest-hearted man who refused to become the leader of the rebels, and Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson was the chosen confidential friend whom he selected as the only person to whom he could safely reveal the traitorous plot confided to him by the treasonable crew. Doane felt that if any man in California would be able to circumvent the rebel designs that man was Colonel Stevenson. Therefore, having determined to confide in him, the Sheriff arose from his bed, dressed himself so that no one could recognize him, and sought the residence of his chosen friend. He rung the bell at midnight. The first ring was without a response; the second, which was much louder, brought the man he desired to see to the balcony over the door. Doane informed him that he wished to see him in

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.

Stevenson came down and opened the door and admitted his midnight visitor, who, being disguised, was not recognized until he had removed his wraps. When identified, Colonel Stevenson exclaimed, "In the name of God, What is your business with me at this hour of the night?" They immediately entered the parlor, and the Sheriff detailed all the circumstances hereinbefore set forth, and then said: "Now, sir, the safety of the State of California, and especially that of the city of San Francisco, is in your hands; you are the only living man within the boundaries of the State who possesses all the necessary qualifications for a leader to crush out this rebellion on the Pacific." At the same time he placed in his listener's hands the muster roll of the conspirators, which the Colonel took and glanced over, and found to contain the names of many prominent Democrats, rich and high in the confidence of the community. Many of these are still among the most ardent and wealthy Democrats of the party of this day, and are as zealous supporters of Hancock as they were of secession in 1861. After some further unimportant conversation Colonel Stevenson

AGREED TO ACCEPT THE POSITION

Thus urged upon him, but returned the muster roll of the Confederates, saying that he did not desire to hold that dangerous paper, lest he should at some distant day be tempted to use it in a manner

that might do the parties injury in civil life after the terrible war of the rebellion should be ended. At this they separated; the one to go home, the other to arrange his course of action to check the mad scheme of converting California into a separate republic. For two hours after Colonel Stevenson returned to bed he continued in as deep thought as the communication just made would permit, and during that time he was mentally testing most carefully the character of many of his most intimate acquaintances to find one whose bravery, fitness and reliability would justify his appointment as second in the movements proposed to be immediately taken to check the impending danger, and prevent the seizure of Fort Alcatraz and government buildings in San Francisco. As for the Mint, he was sure it would never be surrendered while its Treasurer, Jake Snyder, lived. After carefully examing the character and fitness of a large number of his friends, he finally settled upon

ONE HIGH IN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE

Of San Francisco for his peculiar fitness to command and control men on any and all occasions when surrounded by danger, and where human life was imperiled. Besides, this friend had shown military skill and bravery in the hour of battle, at the taking of the city of Mexico. At that time he held a high and important position in the municipality, where he had under his commanad a large number of men well armed, equipped and organized into military companies for drill and practice. If he would consent to act as second in the action proposed to be taken in checking this secession outbreak, there could be no doubt of its success; for with such a military force under command, well armed with regulation muskets, ready for immediate service, they could crush out all the secession element that could be brought together in the city of San Francisco. The moment he had fixed his mind upon this gallant man, he fell asleep and slept soundly until aroused by the six o'clock bell of St. Mary's Cathedral, when he arose, took a hasty breakfast, and at seven o'clock was at the office of his proposed second in command. Fortunately he found him at his desk, and explained to him the object of his call. After listening carefully to his statement, his listener unhesitatingly accepted the position.

DAVE SCANNELL,

The gallant soldier of the Mexican war, and who was then the fearless Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department, as he is now of the paid department of the city of San Francisco, was the trusted friend whom Colonel Stevenson selected as his support. The

courageous and well-armed "fire boys" all heartily devoted to the perpetuity of the Union, with Colonel Stevenson in command, and their beloved Chief Scannell sustaining him, formed a band of patriots against whom all of California's treason would be impotent and unavailing. Having secured his allegiance, Colonel Stevenson asked Scannell how long it would take him to ascertain the exact numerical force he could bring into the plaza at a signal given by the fire alarm bell of the City Hall. Scannell took out his watch, and said: "It is now eight o'clock, and it will take me some three hours to make the inquiry, and I will report to you at any place you will name at twelve o'clock." He was directed to meet the Chief promptly at that hour on the northwest corner of Commercial and Montgomery streets. Having promised to meet at the time and place named, the parties then separated, and as a successful movement in the right direction depended greatly upon the report Scannell should make him, Colonel Stevenson went to his office, which was in the vicinity of the point of meeting, transacted his ordinary morning business, and was at the place designated at eleven o'clock. His second joined him on the minute, and reported that he had made all the inquiries that were necessary to justify him in saying that at any hour after one o'clock of that day, upon the sound of

THREE TAPS UPON THE FIRE ALARM BELL

Of the city, he could march into the plaza with one thousand men, armed with the best regulation muskets of the United States, and otherwise fully equipped, with 25 rounds of "regulation" buck and ball cartridges in each cartridge box. Upon Scannell making this announcement, Colonel Stevenson could hardly restrain himself from clasping the gallant fellow to his heart, but, though forced to check such a demonstration in so public a place, he could not suppress the warm and grateful tear that dimmed his eye and dropped upon his cheek. The gallant fireman saw it, and placing his hand upon his chief's shoulder, said, "All right, Colonel. We will crush out this rebellious movement or die together." They clasped hands and separated, with the understanding not to meet again until the "three taps" on the bell was sounded, for so reliant was the Chief upon the truth and fidelity of his friend that no other meeting was deemed necessary. From this meeting Colonel Stevenson went directly to the office of

MAJOR GENERAL JOHNSTON,

Then in command of the Pacific Military Department of the United States, and found him there. As they were old and inti-

mate friends, he was received most cordially by the General. After the ordinary compliments of the day were exchanged he said to him: "General, I have called to see you upon a subject of vital importance to the people of this city, State and nation, and desire to talk frankly with you; and, if you desire it, all that passes between us shall be strictly confidential. I have, within the last twelve hours, had placed in my hands a roll signed by some 700 men pledging themselves to unite in a movement to take the State of California out of the Union and organize a Pacific Coast Republic, in connection with Oregon and Nevada adjoining, and perhaps s portion of Mexico; and for that purpose a portion of the subscribers are to be organized into a military command, fully armed and equipped for immediate service, and under the command of a chosen officer, to seize Alcatraz Island, the arsenal at Benicia, and all the public buildings and funds of the general government in this State." The speaker further said: "My information was derived from a most reliable gentleman, who called at my house at midnight and besought me to immediately

RAISE AND ORGANIZE SOME FORCE OF PATRIOTIC MEN

To resist this terrible raid of the traitors. It is not necessary to repeat now the arguments he used. It is sufficient to say that I yielded to his solicications, accepted the trust, and have already under my command 1,000 active men accustomed to toil and use of arms, armed with United States regulation muskets and boxes filled with cartridges ready for immediate use, and who will rendezvous on the Plaza upon the sound of three taps upon the fire alarm bell of the City Hall, with a capable officer at the head of each company or squad. They are all reliable men; many of them, like you and myself, have seen service in the war with Mexico. Now, sir, I know that with the small military force you have in this harbor at your command you have not the power to prevent the capture of Fort Alcatraz, the arsenal and public buildings, and property of the federal government in this city and surroundings. Therefore, I conceive it proper, in loyalty to my country and duty to you, to call and say that I am ready by your authority to crush this rebellious and secession movement, and if you do not choose to accept the service of myself and comrades in arms, I unhesitatingly declare that I

WILL DO SO WITHOUT YOUR ORDER

Or permission, for I have the power and the will to do it, and you know me well enough to believe I will keep my word when I give

it." For a few moments the General did not speak. Then he commenced by saying: "I have seen and felt for some time, without being directly advised of it, that there was trouble brewing, that might, unless checked, lead to an outbreak, and should have called the forces here, from the several posts within my immediate reach had I not feared it would alarm not only the citizens of San Francisco, but the people of the State, as well as those on the Atlantic, and thereby check, if not actually destroy, for a time, all the trade and commercial business of California. But I am happy to inform you, that I have this morning received direct instructions from Washington to call in all the troops that can be immediately reached, and strengthen all the forts in the harbor, and otherwise defend the public property; but, sir, we have so few soldiers here and within immediate reach that I fear it will take some time to bring them together at this point, as ordered."

Colonel Stevenson expressed his delight that the General had received such an order.

JOHNSTON THEN SAID:

"Now, Colonel, what do you wish me to do immediately?"

The answer came promptly: "First, issue an immediate order directing the removal of all the army munitions of war of every description from the Benicia Arsenal and storehouses to Alcatraz Island; second, an immediate and other order prohibiting all persons, except the immediate garrison or the United States army officers, from landing at Alcatraz Island without your written authority; third, cause all the munitions of war lying at or near Fort Point to be removed inside the fort, and place a guard of ten or twenty men, under the command of a reliable Sergeant, and direct your Quartermaster to have the additional quarters that will be required for a full garrison immediately prepared, and leave to me the crushing out of this rebellious scheme of a Pacific Republic."

With this the Colonel left him, saying he would see him at ten o'clock next morning. From the General's office he went immediately to keep his appointment with the patriotic Doane, to whom the rebels had confided their plan of action, and offered the command of their forces. They met at one o'clock, and the Colonel told him confidentially

THAT THE REBELLIOUS MOVEMENT WAS DEAD,

And he would never hear any more of it, but as they should not be seen together long enough to give full details at that time, he asked Doane to come to him again at midnight and he would give

him the particulars. From this meeting Stevenson went immediately to the telegraph office and dispatched Lieutenant Governor Downey, then Acting Governor, that his presence was required at the headquarters of General Johnston at ten o'clock next morning, without fail, on business of the utmost importance to the State and nation. From the telegraph office he went directly to the office of the Mayor of the city of San Francisco, at that time Mr. Teschemacher, and found him there, and gave him as much of the history of the contemplated movement as was deemed necessary, and invited him to a conference at General Johnston's headquarters between the Governor, the General, the Mayor and himself. Until then the matter was to be considered strictly confidential. He then sought out a reliable young man, temporily employed in his office, and instructed him to proceed to Sacramento by the four o'clock steamer, and find out whether Governor Downey had left Sacramento for San Francisco by the steamer of that day, and to telegraph him immediately the result of his inquiry; and after telegraphing, if he learned that the Governor had not gone down to San Francisco, to call on him immediately, and say that his presence was indispensably necessary at San Francisco as soon as he could possibly reach there. This done, the Colonel went home, ate a good dinner, read the newspaper, and about 10:30 P. M received a telegram from the young man, saying that

GOVERNOR DOWNEY HAD LEFT SACRAMENTO

In the steamer of that day for San Francisco. Thus, as all things were working well, the Colonel remained in the parlor awaiting the arrival of his visitor of the night before. He came promptly at midnight, and the Colonel related to him in detail all his movements from the time he left his house the night before until that moment, and when he had finished, Doane arose and put his arms about him and said: "God bless you, old fellow; I knew you were the right man, and you have not disappointed me." They drank a glass of sherry together, and the Sheriff left for his house, a most delighted and happy man. The Colonel went immediately to bed, arose about 8:30 o'clock next morning, and went immediately to General Johnston's office, which he reached some time before the others. General Johnston told him confidentially that he had organized his command according to his suggestions. They were then joined by the Mayor of the city and Governor Downey. The Colonel briefly detailed to the Governor and Mayor the whole matter, and the action he had taken in organizing a force to crush out this movement, of all of which he asked their approval, which

was mostly cordially and promptly given. He then told them that his

OBJECT IN ASKING FOR THE CONFERENCE

Was, first, to obtain their approval of all his actions in the premises; second, to say to the Chief Magistrate of the State of California, and the Chief Magistrate of the city of San Francisco, and to the Commanding General of the United States military forces on the Pacific, that the city and State were then at peace, and the public property and funds of the United States unmolested, and in possession of the proper officers of the government, and it was the duty of the Governor, the Mayor, and the Commanding General of the Army of the United States to continue to hold and protect them all in safety until this speck of apparent civil war and design at wholesale plundering of the public property should pass away; that they, and they only, were responsible to the people and the government for its safety, and if they failed in any particular in the performance of this important duty, and a secession outbreak should be the result of such neglect or treachery, he would arrogate to himself the right to protect and save the city and State from the horrors of civil war, as he had the men and means to do all this if forced to the alternative. The Colonel further declared that if he should discover any treachery or rank treason leading to an outbreak, if he could catch the traitor he would

HANG HIM ON THE FIRST LAMP POST

He could reach without judge or jury. He then arose and said, "I beg leave to withdraw, leaving all power in your hands," at the same time declaring that he would hold himself ready at all times to obey any order until the danger had passed away. Further, he gave them the assurance that he could command an ample and sufficient force to defeat in arms any and all movements that the would-be destroyers of the peace and happiness of this city and State might dare to attempt. With these remarks he left their presence, and although he had daily intercourse with General Johnston, the Mayor of the city and his brave associates in defense, who watched every movement of the Confederates, he never heard another word uttered by the former open-mouthed advocates of a Pacific republic. General Johnston informed him that all the arms had been removed to Alcatraz Island, the garrison of that post greatly increased, and no visitors were permitted to land there without proper permission. In a few days after these precautions had been taken to insure the safety of the public property of the general government

GENERAL SUMNER ARRIVED QUIETLY

As has been before stated in the "Chapter of Unwritten History," and as Colonel Stevenson was an old and intimate friend of the General, he soon put him in possession of all the facts of the dangers we had passed, as is herein set forth.

Colonel Stevenson at an early day determined to write and publish a history of his regiment and his own life in California and elsewhere, in which he proposed to publish what he had seen and done in California, and especially the part he took in suppressing the attempt to take California out of the Union, and convert it into a Pacific republic. He has considered it imperative to present the public some proof of such service fortifying his own statement in print. Therefore, he addressed a note to Mayor Teschemacher, and his second in the movement, David Scannell, asking them to give him their recollections of those times. Both immediately answered by sending the annexed communications which are now presented as evidence in proof of this second chapter of the unwritten history of the war of the rebellion in California.

[COPY.]

San Francisco, Nov. 14, 1871.

Colonel J. D. Stevenson, San Francisco—Dear Sir: In answer to your request that I should state to you briefly my recollection of your connection with an organization of volunteers in this city in the year 1861, I reply as follows: Some time during that year (I forget now the exact time) you called on me in my official capacity as Mayor of San Francisco and stated that the late Sheriff Doane had mentioned to you that an organization of people opposed to the then existing war, and sympathizing with the South, was being secretly carried on, and the object of which was to carry the State of California out of the Union and declare it an independant Pacific republic; you at the same time informed me that you had communicated with Chief Engineer Scannell, of the Fire Department, with a view of ascertaining the practicability of organizing the fire companies as volunteers to put down the contemplated movement, and he reported that a thousand men could readily be raised for such a purpose, and it was proposed to place you in command in case they were called out. In consequence of your information I consulted with Governor Downey and others. You were present at the meeting, and again offered your services in any capacity, even in the ranks, if it were thought best. For-

tunately the plan was abandoned and affairs remained quiet; but I was impressed at the time with your conduct on that occasion as that of a patriotic citizen and a thoroughly energetic Union man

I remain respectfully yours,

[Signed] H. F. Teschemacher.

[COPY.]

Clerk's Office,
Board of Fire Commissioners,
San Francisco, Nov. 15, 1871.

Colonel Stevenson—Dear Sir: In answer to your request that I would state what part you took in checking the organization of forces in this city at the commencement of the rebellion, to take this State out of the Union, under the pretence of establishing a "Pacific republic," I take pleasure in stating that by your prompt action and patriotic devotion to the Union, more than any other man's in California, was such a calamity averted.

I know that at a late hour of the night, in the Spring of 1861, I think, you were called upon by the late Sheriff Doane, who made known to you the organization of an armed force of rebels for the purpose of forcing the State out of the Union. His object in calling on you was to get you to accept the command of a volunteer force to resist such a movement; you promptly agreed to accept the command, and offering to serve in the ranks if you could better serve the cause. At the time I was Chief Engineer of the Fire Department in this city. You called on me early next morning after that interview with Sheriff Doane, explained all the circumstances to me, and asked me to join you. I did agree to do so, and at your request agreed to ascertain the spirit and temper of the firemen of this city on the subject, and to report to you the number of volunteer firemen I could raise. I met you according to promise at twelve o'clock the same day and reported 1,000 men ready for such service at the tap of the City Hall bell. You immediately called the attention of the Commanding General of the United States Military Department, the Mayor of the city, Mr. Teschemacher, and, I believe, Lieutenant Governor Downey, acting Governor of the State. A meeting of those gentlemen was the result, and, under your advisement, such measures were adopted as effectually put a stop to all idea of any further movement in the way of a Pacific republic. The implicit confidence the fire-

men placed in your patriotism, your popularity and ability, together with my own efforts, induced each man to volunteer promptly.

Yours respectfully, etc.,

[Signed] DAVID SCANNELL.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE

OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Commenced the thirty-seventh annual communication at Masonic Temple on Tuesday, Oct. 13, A. D. 1885, N. C. 5885, and in the ordinary course of business on the 16th of October, Past Grand Master, Leonidas E. Pratt, in behalf of sundry other Past Grand Masters and himself, presented the following memorial and resolution :

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of California :

In the infancy of Freemasonry on the Pacific Coast one character was perhaps more conspicuous than all others. His devotion and fidelity were never challenged ; his zeal and activity were tireless and unflagging, and in the days of his prosperity, his charities were unstinted and unmeasured even to the verge of recklessness. Thirty-five years ago, then in the full vigor of his ripened but unimpaired manhood, he presided over the deliberations and guided the counsels of this grand body. There is much in him of which we may be justly proud. Few men have led more active, trying and adventurous lives, and few men have acquitted themselves with greater credit. In every capacity as civilian and as soldier, as public officer and as private citizen, as husband and father, and as friend and mason, he has faithfully redeemed every trust reposed in him. He is still with us, but the merciless hand of time has wrought its inevitable changes. His zeal, devotion and fidelity are unabated, but health, strength and resources are materially depleted. At fourscore and six years of age, threescore and five of which have been devoted to the care of Free Masonry, misfortunes which no prudence or sagacity could avert sit heavily upon him and his invalid household, whilst the infirmities of age cruelly admonish that the Grand Destroyer is too rapidly wasting and consuming us his vitality. We need not add that we refer to our first Grand Master—Jonathan Drake Stevenson—justly entitled to be hailed as the founder and father of Free Masonry in California. He de-

serves some testimonial from us. Let us take the patriach still nearer to our hearts and make him the life guest of this grand lodge. Let us shift from his to our own less wearied shoulders some of the cares and burdens of his declining years. Let us thus mellow and soften his pathway to the tomb, and teach him to realize that bread cast upon the waters will sooner or later return to bless the giver. In furtherance of these suggestions and to give them practical effect, we present the following resolutions and commend it to your kind thoughts and considerate attention.

Resolved, That as a token of our appreciation of the early services of our venerable Past Grand Master, Jonathan Drake Stevenson, and in evidence of our continued esteem and affection for him as a man and a mason, the sum of twelve hundred dollars be set apart and appropriated to his use from the general fund of this grand lodge, to be remitted to him under the direction of the M. W. Grand Master in monthly installments of one hundred dollars each.

CURTIS,
DAVIES,
TITUS,
PERKINS,
PRATT.

Which memorial and resolution were unanimously adopted.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., January 31, 1886.

Hon. Leland Stanford, Senator; Hon. W. W. Morrow, Hon. C. N. Felton, Hon. Barclay Henley, Hon. Joseph McKenna, Hon. H. H. Markham, Hon. J. A. Loutitt, Members of Congress, Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: Permit me to press upon your attention the claim of Colonel Johathan D. Stevenson to the favorable consideration of the nation for his great and invaluable services in the acquisition, and in securing to the United States, of the State of California.

You know his history, and I need not call to your attention, the fact that he took a prominent, leading and effective part in the initiation and firm establishment of Anglo-Saxon civilization in the State of California. He will present documents showing the extent, character, and value of his services, both in originally securing California, and afterward preserving her to the Union upon the breaking out of the rebellion, to which I refer you. He certainly deserves as well of his country for the services referred

to as any man now living for like services, and this fact should receive some substantial recognition on the part of Congress.

Colonel Stevenson was eighty-six years old on the first day of January, 1886. Notwithstanding his long, active, laborious and useful life, he has laid up nothing for his old age; and he is now out of employment, and too old to again engage in the arduous battle of life, or seek new fields of enterprise. I do not see how he is to maintain himself and his aged wife for the future without aid from some source.

In my judgment the least that this great and prosperous nation can reasonably do, as a recognition of his past valuable services, is to grant him a pension during the little time that may be vouchsafed to him, on earth, not less than is allowed to a retired Colonel of the regular army.

I earnestly hope that the Senators and Representatives from the Pacific Coast, and especially from the State of California, will exert their utmost energy and influence to procure at the present session of Congress the passage of an act granting him such pension. The neglect of Congress to make this slight recognition of his past servies would be to add to the world's history another instance of the ingratitude of republics.

Respectfully and sincerely yours

LORENZO SAWYER.
United States Circuit Judge,

OGDEN HOFFMAN, United States District Judge.

GEORGE M. SABIN, United States District Judge, District of Nevada.

STATE JUDICIARY.

JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT.

S. B. McKEE,	J. R. SHARPSTEIN,
M. H. MYRICK,	JAMES D. THORNTON,
E. W. McKINSTRY,	E. M. ROSS.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES.

JAMES G. MAGUIRE,	Judge Superior	Court.
D. J. MURPHY,	"	"
D. J. TOOHY,	"	"
T. K WILSON,	"	"
M. A. EDMONDS,	"	"
J. M. HUNT,	"	"
J. V. COFFEY,	"	"

J. F. SULLIVAN, Judge Superior Court.
F. W. LAWLER " "
WALTER H. LEVY, " "
T. H. REARDON, " "
JOHN F. FINN, " "

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO.

By SAMUEL M. WILSON, President.

GOVERNOR AND EX-GOVERNORS OF CALIFORNIA.

GEORGE STONEMAN, Governor.
PETER H. BURNETT, Ex-Governor.
WILLIAM IRWIN, "
GEORGE C. PERKINS, "
NEWTON BOOTH, "
JOHN MANSFIELD, Ex-Lieutenant Governor.
JAMES A. JOHNSON, " "

MAYOR AND EX-MAYORS.

WASHINGTON BARTLETT, Mayor of San Francisco.
A. J. BRYANT, Ex-Mayor of San Francisco.
WILLIAM AVORD, " "
M. B. BLAKE, " "
E. W. BURR, " "

UNITED STATES REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

JOHN S. HAGAR, Collector of the Port of San Francisco.
W. J. TINNIN, Surveyor of the Port of San Francisco.
STUART TAYLOR, Naval Officer of the Port of San Francisco.

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

CHARLES KOHLER, Democrat.
JAMES M. EATON, "
HORACE DAVIS, Republican.
M. H. HECHT, "

At a regular meeting of the San Francisco Bar Association for the present month, amongst other proceedings the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in our venerable associate and fellow citizen Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson, we recognize a man who has earned and deserves the respect and gratitude of his countrymen; by his early services in his native State in the promotion and discipline of

a "well regulated militia;" by his prompt and efficient aid, through his regiment, in achieving and securing California as a part of our national domain; and by his steady loyalty and devotion to the good order, unity and honor of the State and Nation. From nearly forty years of his residence at this city, and in view of his character and public services he has become honored and venerable in our eyes. We would, therefore, cordially unite with others in a petition to Congress to pay a just tribute of our country's respect and gratitude to the distinguished career of Colonel J. D. Stevenson, in the way of a liberal pension, (now much needed), to cheer and support his declining strength and years.

By order of the Association.

SAM'L M. WILSON, President.
THOS. V. O'BRIEN, Secretary.

San Francisco, California, February 26, 1886.

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
SECOND FLOOR, NEW CITY HALL.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 11, 1886.

COLONEL JONATHAN D. STEVENSON.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of Resolution No. 18,639, (New Series), adopted by unanimous vote by the Board of Supervisors, of this city and county, at a meeting held February 1, 1886.

Very respectfully,

JOHN A. RUSSELL, Clerk,
W. T. PATTERSON, Deputy.

RESOLUTION NO. 18,639, (NEW SERIES).

Whereas, We are advised that our venerable fellow-citizen, Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson, is about to apply to the Congress of the United States, now in session, for relief by pension or otherwise, as a just reward for the many important and invaluable services he has rendered to his country and the State of California in his long civil and military life.

Therefore, as a just tribute to his worth as a citizen and soldier, and the fidelity with which he has ever performed his duties in public and private life,

Be it resolved, that we do respectfully and sincerely ask the Con-

gress of the United States to pass such an Act as will afford the relief prayed for, and we do respectfully ask the delegates representing the people of the State of California, now serving in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, to use their best efforts to procure the passage of such an Act.

And the Clerk is hereby directed to advertise this resolution as required by law.

In Board of Supervisors, San Francisco, February 1, 1886.

Adopted by the following vote :

Ayes—Supervisors Gates, Roy, Kunkler, Abbott, Farwell, Pond, Williamson, Farnsworth, Heyer, Gilleran, McMillan, Valleau.

JOHN A. RUSELL, Clerk.

Los Angeles, California, February 1st, 1886.

To the Honorable California Delegation, in the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress, assembled :

Senator.—Hon. Leland Stanford.

Representatives.—Hons. Barclay Henley, C. N. Felton, W. W. Morrow, Joseph McKenna, H. H. Markham, J. A. Loutitt.

We, the undersigned, would respectfully memoralize your honorable delegation to give their support to the bill introduced in Congress, granting a pension to the surviving officers and privates who served in the war with Mexico, in the years 1846–7–8.

The few survivors are now old men, and many of them are in needy circumstances, and the little pittance thus grauted to them would be a great help in their few remaining years ; and some reward and acknowledgment of the services rendered by them. In connection with the General Pension Bill, we heartily and respectfully endorse the claims of Colonel J. D. Stevenson, who commanded the regiment of New York Volunteers, enlisted in 1846 for service during the war in California. Colonel Stevenson was ordered by Brigadier General S. W. Kearney, then Commander-in-Chief, to the command of the Southern Military Department of California, with headquarters in Los Angeles city, where he arrived and took command, May, 1847, and remained until his regiment was mustered out, in September, 1848. This section of California had been the scene of an outbreak by the native Californians, in September, 1846, which was not suppressed until June, 1847, and Colonel Stevenson, by his firm and conciliatory conduct while in command, contributed greatly to reconcile the native pop-

ulation to their new condition as prospective American citizens. His whole administration was marked by the utmost harmony and good will between the military and citizens, both American and Mexican, and contributed more than the efforts of any other man to the good understanding that led to the formation of the Constitution of 1847, and the admission of California into the Union.

Colonel Stevenson is now verging on 90 years of age, and in reduced circumstances, and the pay and emoluments which he asks, would seem to be but a reasonable reward for his services rendered forty years ago.

Respectfully your obedient servants,

STEPHEN C. FOSTER, Interpreter, 1847–8–9; Alcalde of Los Angeles, 1848–9; Mayor of Los Angeles City, 1854–56.

JOHN S. GRIFFIN, late Assistant Surgeon, United States Army.

L. C. GUDWIN, of Company C, Georgia Battalion of Cavalry.

JOSHUA ALVIN TALBOTT, First Lieutenant, Sixth Louisiana Volunteers

MYRON MORTON, First Lieutenant, First Regiment New York Volunteers, Colonel J. D. Stevenson.

MARTIN McCARTY, private, First Ohio Volunteers, Company A.

WILLIAM L. SAMUEL, private, Third Kentucky Regiment, Company H, Simmes, commanding.

JAMES B. CAYWOOD, First Sergeant, Company C, United States Infantry. No. 8.

CEORGE TICE, teamster, Missouri Battalion.

SHONATHAN KNETT, private, Third United States Infantry, Company A, Captain Barter.

JOSEPH DUNLASS, Second Mississippi Rifles, Secretary of the Association of Veterans of the Mexican War.

GURSHAM CALVER NORRIS, private, Company K, Fifteenth Regiment, United States Infantry.

JAMES A. STANDEFER, private, Second Regiment, Texas Cavalry.

We, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, California, hereby heartily endorse the above petition.

OSCAR MACY, Chairman.

GEORGE HINDS, MILTON LINDLEY,
JACOB ROSS. JAMES FOORD

We, the Council of the city of Los Angeles, hereby heartily endorse the above petition.

E. V. SPENCE, Mayor of Los Angeles.
H. SINSABAUGH, President of City Council.

S. M. PERRY,	CYRUS WILLARD,
LIT BRUD,	J. WAUKENFIELD,
JAMES D. BULLIS,	E. V. JONES,
THOMAS GOSS,	JACOB KURTZ,
CEO. L. STEAREN,	M. V. BISCAILUS.

SANTA BARBARA, February 22, 1886.

To the Honorable the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress, assembled:

The undersigned would respectfully represent that they came to California in the year 1846, as members of Stevenson's Regiment of California Volunteers in the war with Mexico. Having just learned that our old commander, Colonel J. D. Stevenson, is about to ask the Congress of the United States to award him a pension for his gallant services rendered the Nation in both his military and civil life, and all who are familiar with those services, most earnestly desire his success, and, therefore, earnestly solicit for him your official aid in the passage of a bill through Congress for his relief, as well as for the General Pension Bill, now before Congress for the general relief of all soldiers who served in California and elsewhere in the war with Mexico.

HENRY S. CARNS, First Lieutenant Company F, First New York Volunteers.

GEO. W. COFFIN, Mayor of Santa Barbara.
J. L. R. VANCE, Chairman Board of Supervisors.

J. W. TORRENCE,
D. T. TRUITT,
THOS. HASMER,
C. W. MERRITT,
} Members of Board of Supervisors.

THOS. Mc NULTA, Company N, Epineil Zouaves, Company A, Anderson Zouaves.

F. L. KELLOG, County Clerk.

CHAS. FERNALD, Commissioner of U. S. Circuit Court, Ninth Circuit, District of California.

T. S. MARTIN, Fremont's Battalion.

J. H. SUMMERS, Company R, Fourth U. S. Artillery.

EDW. RUNDELL, of Captain Joseph Adam's Co., and of Lieutenant Colonel Fremont's Company.

F. E. BARTLETT, Company C, Second Dragoons.

RUFUS SMITH, Company K, Eighth Regiment, Vermont Volunteers.

ANDREW MARTIN, served under Colonel Price.

J. M. HUNTER, Third Louisiana Volunteers, Mexican Veteran.

MARTIN GLAZE, served under Colonel Price, Missouri Volunteers.

JOHN SCOLLAN, Company A, First Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers.

J. E. MULHAUSE, Company F, N. Y. Volunteers.

San Francisco, Cal., February 4, 1886.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Whereas, The undersigned merchants and members of the Chamber of Commerce in the port of San Francisco, State of California, have heard with great pleasure that Colonel J. D. Stevenson, the distinguished pioneer soldier of California, is about to ask the Congress of the United States, now in session, to grant him relief by pension or otherwise, as a just and proper tribute for his long and devoted services rendered to his country, and the State of California as well, in civil as in military life.

Colonel Stevenson came to California during the war with Mexico, in command of the First Regiment of New York Volunteers, organized, armed and equipped under his entire direction, and himself and regiment stipulated with the government to be mustered out of service on the soil of California at the close of the war, provided it had become a part of the United States by conquest, or by treaty stipulations.

How faithfully and well he has fulfilled this contract is well-known to every resident of California, and we believe that every resident of California, who has the least knowledge of the important services he has rendered his country, would most cheerfully unite in aiding him in his honorable aspiration, to obtain from his government a proper recognition for his services, as will be shown by the memorial he will cause to be presented to the assembled Congress of the Nation.

Therefore, we most earnestly urge the Representatives of the State of California to use their best efforts to procure the passage

of an Act for the just and equitable relief for which he asks. For Colonel Stevenson is held in the highest estimation by all who know him, for his upright and honorable deportment in every relation of his long and useful life, desirious only of the welfare of his country and his nation and the State of his adoption.

WILLIAM L. MERRY, First Vice-President.

W. W. Montague, C. L. Taylor, W. H. Dimond, Hugh Craig, Alfred B. Elfelt, J. N. Knowles, L. L. Baker, Albert Miller, A. E. Hecht, J. J. McKinnon.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., February 1, 1886.

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS.

Whereas, It has been made known to us that our fellow-citizen Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson will ask the Congress of the United States, now in session, to pass an Act awarding him a pension for and on account of his numerous and valuable services rendered to the Nation and State of California during the war with Mexico, and subsequently by aiding and assisting in the organization and forming the acquired Territory of California into a noble State of the Union

Colonel Stevenson brought with him to California a thousand armed colonists all of them in good health and sound constitution, and of every profession and trade, with their tools to operate in their several occupations known in civil life, who, when they enlisted, agreed to stay in California, thus planting a colony of free born intelligent men, who were distributed to various parts of the country, thus planting the banner of their country at every post they were stationed, and with the flag planted the germ of American civilization from which sprung the organization of the Society of California Pioneers. He suggested its organization, planned its constitution, and presided at every meeting of its members until its organization was completed.

Therefore, as a just tribute to his work as a citizen and soldier, and the fidelity with which he has performed his duties in public and private life, be it

Resolved, That we do respectfully and earnestly request the Congress of the United States, now in session, to pass an Act granting him a pension commensurate to the services rendered by him, and we respectfully urge the Representatives of the State of California in the Senate and House of Representatives to use their united efforts to procure the passage of such an Act.

I hereby certify that the foregoing preamble and resolution was unanimously adopted by the Society of California Pioneers at a regular monthly meeting of its members held on the first day of February, A. D. 1886.

[SEAL.] H. T. GRAVES, Secretary.

San Francisco, Feb. 2, 1886.

SAN FRANCISSO, CAL., January 14, 1886.

ASSOCIATED VETERANS OF THE MEXICAN WAR.

Whereas, We are advised that our comrade, Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson, is about to apply to the Congress of the United States, now in session at the city of Washington, for relief by pension or otherwise, and

Whereas, Mindful of the unavoidable embarrassments that now surround him at the age of fourscore years and six.

Therefore, in just recognition of the eminent services rendered by Colonel J. D. Stevenson to the Government of the United States and the State of California in both a military and civil capacity, and the high standard of efficiency and integrity that has always characterized the discharge of his duties and of his worth and merit as a citizen and soldier.

Resolved, That we the Associate Veterans of the War with Mexico, do respectfully and most earnestly solicit the Congress of the United States, now in session in the city of Washington, to pass such an Act granting the relief asked for by pension or otherwise, that will insure his comfort to the end of his long and useful life.

WM. L. DUNCAN, President.

[SEAL.] H. L. VON GEISTFIELD, Secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 17th, 1886.

Whereas, The Board of Education of the City and County of San Francisco learning that our venerable and universally respected citizen, Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson, is about to ask relief from the government of the United States by pension, or otherwise, in consideration of the many valuable and important services he has rendered the nation and the State of California in his military and civil life.

Colonel Stevenson arrived in California on the 6th of March, 1847, with the First Regiment of New York Volunteers, raised

and organized by him especially for service in California, and under an agreement that at the close of the war with Mexico they should be mustered out of service in California, and thereby become permanent residents of the country, each with the implements of his profession, trade, or occupation.

And in establishing the several military posts at different points in the State, which they were especially ordered to occupy, further orders were given for the establishing of a public school at every post over which the stars and stripes were floating. And again, when the war was ended, and he had returned to civil life, and was residing in the town of Yerba Buena, now the great city of San Francisco, his first acts were the organizing of an association to hire rooms and employ teachers to open the first public school established in San Francisco, and to urge the establishment of churches, Colonel Stevenson heading the list of subscribers of each and every church with a liberal donation.

Thus laying the corner-stone of American civilization and of Christian feeling, he has justly acquired the well deserved title of the Father and Founder of American Civilization in California.

Resolved, That we deem it eminently proper and an act of justice to him to urge the Representatives of the State of California, in the Congress now assembled, to use their best efforts to procure the passage of an act by said Congress, granting the relief by pension or otherwise.

San Francisco, March 1st, 1886.

The foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a preamble and resolution passed by the Board of Education of the City and County ef San Francisco, California, at a meeting held on the 17th day of February, 1886.

J. T. McGEOGHEGAN,
Secretary Board Education

[SEAL.]

ANDREW J. MOULDER,
Superintendent Common Schools.

San Francisco, February, 1886.

Whereas, We have seen by the action of the Board ot Supervisors of the city of San Francisco at their monthly meeting on the first instant, that Colonel J. D Stevenson is about to ask the Congress of the United States, now in session, for the passage of an Act for his relief by pension or otherwise, as an act of common justice for the great and important services he has rendered to the Nation and the State of California.

Colonel Stevenson is probably the oldest living exempt fireman in the United States; as he became a fireman in March, 1818, and served a regular term of ten years before he became an exempt, and those of us who were residents of California at the organization of the volunteer Fire Department of San Francisco, well know that he was the most active and liberal in the necessary expenditures for its organization. As a Chief Engineer was to be chosen, the city authorities requested Colonel Stevenson to select the chief for appointment and he presented the name of Fred. Kohler, at a salary of $5,000 per annum.

Resolved, That we respectfully request as companies each for itself, our several foremen, together with our Chief and the Fire Commissioners, to be our representatives in a united memorial to the Congress of the United States, now in session, to pass such an Act as will be commensurate with the services he has rendered to his country during his long and eventful life.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

FRANK G. EDWARDS, F. C. SIEBE,
SAMUEL NEWMAN, JOHN MASON,
C. E. SLOSS,

BOARD OF ENGINEERS.

DAVID SCANNELL, Chief.
JAMES RILEY, A. C. IMBRIE,
CEO. W. KENNARD, THOS. SANDS,
JOHN McCARTHY,
E. B. VREELAND, Clerk of Commissioners.

BOARD OF FOREMEN S. F. F. DEPARTMENT.

Foreman Engine Co. 1—JOHN HEWSTON.
" " 2—R. DOWNING.
" " 3—M. J. DOLAN.
" " 4—PATRICK CURRAN.
" " 5—JOHN J. MAHONEY.
" " 6—JOHN DOUGHERTY.
" " 7—JOHN O'NEIL.
" " 8—JAMES GRADY.
" " 9—JOHN W. WELSH.
" " 10—B. A. RAWLE.
" " 11—CHARLES J. GILLEN.
" " 12—JOHN LAVARONI.
" " 13—D. H. SMITH.
" " 14—THOS. McCRAITH.
" " 15—THOS. CAVANAGH.

Truck Company	1—ALBIN RISSLAND.
" "	2—CONS. SHINE
" "	3—GEO. SILVEY.
" "	4—JAMES W. KENTZEL.
Hose Company	1—CHARLES TOWE.
" "	2—CON. SHINE.
" "	3—ISAAC DENNISTON.
" "	4—JAMES DURHAM.
" "	5—JAMES RILEY.
" "	7—MICHAEL McLEERY.
" "	8—J. J. CASEBOLT.
" "	9—SAMUEL GARDNER.

San Francisco, February, 1886.

To the Honorable, the Senators, and House of Representatives in Congress, assembled :

The undersigned, Chief and Captains of the Police department of the City and County of San Francisco, having learned that our venerable fellow-citizen, Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson, is about to apply to Congress for the passage of an act for his relief by pension or otherwise, in payment for the long, extraordinary service he has rendered the State of California by its conquest, and organizing it into a State, and for services rendered the government and the nation at large. Colonel Stevenson brought with him to California an organized colony of 1,' 00 armed men to aid in its conquest, and to form settlements, and when planting the stars and stripes, they at the same time sowed the germs of American civilization, which at this time has grown one of the brightest gems in our diadem of States.

From the hour he landed on the soil of California, his every effort as a citizen and a soldier has been devoted to its prosperity and aggrandizement, and in no place has it been more conspicuous than in the city of San Francisco, and the State at large indebted for its organization and prosperity in its early days.

We, therefore, earnestly solicit the Congress of the nation to to afford him him such relief as will enable him to live in the height of comfort to the end of his long, useful and well-spent life.

P. CROWLEY, Chief of Police.
E. W. LEES, Captain of Detectives.
WM. J. DOUGLASS, Captain of Police.
A. W. STONE, " "
A. J. DUNLEVY " "
ALFRED CLARKE, Clerk Chief of Police.

We take great pleasure in concurring with the foregoing resolution.

RICHARD P. HAMMOND, President Board Police Commissioners.
WIILLIAM ALVORD, Police Commissioner.
ROBERT J. TOBIN. " "

San Francisco, February, 1886.

To the Honorable, the Representatives of the State of California in the Senate and House of Representatives, now in Congress assembled, in the City of Washington:

The undersigned, late officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the 1st Regiment of New York Volunteers in the war with Mexico, most respectfully request you to use your best efforts to procure the passage of the Pension Bill, now before Congress, giving bounty to the volunteer soldiers in the war with Mexico, or any other bill that will give us the long-promised bounty.

And having learned that our late Commander, Colonel Jonathan Drake Stevenson, is about to make a special application to Congress for relief, by way of pension or otherwise, we, the undersigned, do most earnestly urge you to use your best efforts to procure for him the passage of any bill that may be presented in Congress to give him the relief prayed for by him and his numerous friends, and fellow-citizens of California and elsewhere.

We who served under him well know his worth and ability as a commander, and from the moment he entered upon his duties at Governor's Island, in the harbor of New York, he was ever actively engaged in preparing his command for the the arduous duties before them, watching carefully for the comfort of all under his charge with a father's interest and care, and such was his invariable habit until the hour we were mustered out of service, directing all with a strict attention to their duties, and especially to treating the conquered people of California as friends and brothers, forgetting apparently that they were other than his own people. Hence he inspired the whole community of California with that reverence and respect for him which was his just due, and enabled him to preserve that peace and good order between the soldiers of his command and the Native Californians, that made the change in their national government so acceptable to them.

We therefore earnestly pray that the Congress may grant him the most liberal pension that our laws will authorize.

W. R. PARKER, Asst. Surgeon.
E. WILLIAMS, 1st Lieut., Co. E.
W. G. MARCY, Capt. and Commissarie.
EMIL A. ENGELBERG, Musician.
CHARLES RUSS, Fifer, Co. F.
WM. W. BROWN, Co. A.
PATRICK LYNCH, Co. B.
JOHN DELICK, Co. D.
CASTOR BRIGGS, Co. E.
WILLIAM BOYERS, Co. E.
GEORGE H. GROEFF, Co. E.
M. TUCKMAN, Co. G.
JAMES ADAMS, Co. G.
CHAS. SCHROTH, Co G.
WILLIAM H. MARTIN, Co. H.
E. MARTIN SMITH, Co. I.
CORNELIUS SULLIVAN, Co. I.
JOHN CARTER, Co. K.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., March 4th, 1886.

COLONEL J. D. STEVENSON, San Francisco, Cal.

COLONEL:

I have the honor to inform you that at the Nineteenth Annual Encampment of the Department of California, Grand Army of the Republic, held at Sacramento on the 18th, 19th and 20th of February just past, the following resolutions were unanimously carried, viz.:

Whereas, It has been made known to the Nineteenth Annual Encampment of the Department of California, Grand Army of the Republic, that J. D. Stevenson, late Colonel commanding First Regiment of New York Volunteers in the Mexican war, intends to petition the Congress of the United States to grant him a pension for services rendered to his country.

Whereas, This encampment, representing the Grand Army of the Republic of this State, gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the valuable services Colonel Stevenson has rendered the nation

and the State of California in military and civil positions of great responsibility, and

Whereas, The old veteran, in his great age of 87 years, needs, deserves, and is entitled to aid and assistance of his country for the remaining days of his life. Therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Grand Army of the Republic of this State, in Department Encampment assembled, that we recognize in Colonel J. D. Stevenson a veteran soldier of such sterling quality of loyalty, bravery and honesty that he is entitled to the sympathy and admiration of all true soldiers and loyal citizens of the United States.

Resolved, That we endorse his petition to Congress with profound gratitude for his services, and with the hope that his just demands may receive the most favorable consideration of Congress.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Encampment that in endorsing Colonel Stevenson's petition, we express the unqualified desire and wishes of our comrades of the Grand Army and the people of the State of California.

[SEAL.] I have the honor to be, Colonel,
very respectfully,

W. R. SMEDBERG,
Department Commander.

T. TAYLOR, Assistant Adjutant General.

---

912 GARRISON AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MO., Feb. 2, 1886.
HON. JOHN SHERMAN, U. S. SENATOR,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR BROTHER:

I write you in the interest of my old California friend, Colonel J. D. Stevenson, now nearly 87 years old, who finds it necessary to call on Uncle Sam for help. I believe the history of California is familiar to you, and to all Senators; and since 1846 the name of Colonel J. D. Stevenson has been identified with it. You can recall that I went out with Tompkin's Company, Third Artillery, and debarked at Monterey in January, 1847. Three sailing ships —the Thomas H. Perkins, Loo-Chow and Susan Drew—arrived in the Bay of San Francisco in March, 1847. There was no city or even town of San Francisco then, but a village of Yerba Buena. These ships contained a Regiment of Volunteers with special enlistment to serve in the war with Mexico and afterward to Colonize and Americanize California. I was the Adjutant General,

first of the stern but splendid Soldier R. B. Mason, afterward of the General Pursifer F. Smith, until 1850. During all this time the correspondence passed through me, and I take especial pleasure at this late day to bear witness that Colonel J. D. Stevenson in all his official relations was a model of earnest, intelligent and zealous servant to the United States.

In the many visits I have made to California since, I have never failed to call and pay him my personal and official respect, and so far as I know he has never asked a favor of the Government unless to be employed in some office, with moderate salary. You and others may think with his opportunities he ought to be a millionaire, but all the time he has had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, to whom he has endeavored to be generous and liberal, and now in his extreme old age he applies for help. All I can say is that if this Government regards California in the diadem of States a glittering jewel, it owes to Colonel J. D. Stevenson both honor and a generous provision for his old age.

Affectionately,

W. T. SHERMAN.

Sacramento, February 10th, 1886.

Senator Leland Stanford, Washington, D. C.:

Dear Sir.—My very dear friend, Colonel J. D. Stevenson, goes to Washington, hoping that the Congress of the United States will see its way clear to bestow upon him a pension, commensurate with the many and distinguished services to his country during his long and arduous life. Any aid you will be able to render him in the furthering his efforts will, I am certain, be duly and thankfully appreciated by his many devoted friends in California. He commenced public life almost a century ago, and the best assurances of his honesty and integrity in public affairs is that those who know him the longest appreciate him the highest. Please allow me to bespeak for him at your hands your most earnest efforts in his behalf, and believe me very respectfully,

most truly yours,

GEORGE STONEMAN,

Governor of California.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 24th, 1886.

Hon. S. B. Maxey, U. S. Senator:

My Dear Maxey.—At the commencement of the Mexican War in 1846, there was mustered into service, for special duty in California, a New York Regiment of Volunteers, commanded by Colonel J. D. Stevenson.

This regiment was enlisted for the war, and was to be discharged when the war was over in California, provided California became American territory as the result of the war. The regiment was of course discharged and mustered out, and its individuals scattered through the land, and formed the nucleus of various communities and furnished the means and muscle and brains of divers industries and business. When I arrived here on the first day of April, 1849, I found Colonel Stevenson practically at the head of affairs. He was the chief man in this city—prosperous then, and always in the front of every enterprise to promote the advancement of American interests on this Coast.

His full hand was ever ready to help in any direction which promised good government and security for life and property. His charities were boundless, and I believe he dispensed more good and restrained more evil than any man I found here. I was employed myself in connection with Sherman (W. T.) and Jim Blair of the Navy, by him to survey and map the upper waters of the Bay of San Francisco, the result of which work was to open to larger vessels the vast interior of the country, through the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, which had remained closed to all but small craft above and beyond Benicia. I mention this as a sample of his public spirit. The map of our work, lithographed in New York, at his own cost, and scattered here *free,* were the first guides to navigation above Benicia.

As so often happens to the early pioneers of a country, Colonel Stevenson has not "gathered grain," and at four score years and six is obliged to look to his country which owes him so much, for the little that may serve for the short remainder of his life.

He asks to be placed on the retired list of the Army, with the pay allowed to his grade of Colonel when retired. I do not know if this can be done, it may not be without precedent, but I feel sure if it can be accomplished the boon has been deserved, and will be most justly and worthily bestowed.

My note to you is a meagre outline, but will serve to present Colonel J. D. Stevenson to you, and will be backed, no doubt, by our friend Sherman, who knows all the facts even more than I.

You will probably recollect Stevenson of the Old Seventh, and I feel quite sure if you can see the way, you will be willing to serve the aged Father.

Very truly your friend,

R. P. HAMMOND.

Los Angeles, Cal., February, 1886.

From Dr. John S. Griffin, late Surgeon in U. S. Army, to

Hon. Leland Stanford, U. S. Senator:

Sir.—At the request of the Mexican War Veterans I have enclosed to Colonel J. D. Stevenson a petition to be sent to your care, with the request from these old soldiers that you will look after their interest.

We are all especially anxious that our old commander, Colonel J. D. Stevenson, should be placed on the pension list, with the rank and pay of a Colonel.

Several of us served under the Colonel's command at this city in the years 1847 and 1848.

We know personally that his services were of the greatest value to the government; that by his firmness and good government he prevented on more than one occasion an armed opposition by the natives of the country.

I hope you will pardon my addressing you personally, as you no doubt have forgotten me. I had the pleasure of meeting you, with other gentlemen of the railroad, at a banquet given at the time we made the connection by rail with San Francisco.

I am, Senator, most respectfully,

your obedient servant,

JOHN S. GRIFFIN.

P de Los Angeles, July 22nd, 1847.

Sir.—Before I leave the Pueblo I cannot but render you my most heartfelt gratitude for your services on our behalf, and for your kind and gentlemanly treatment to myself in connection with the other officers and men of the battalion. As an officer your treatment has been kind and affectionate; as a gentleman your society has been interesting, edifying and most friendly. In all my associations with the officers of the command I have heard

feeling of great satisfaction and gratitude expressed towards you at all times, and a desire that they who stopped here might enjoy your society long, and on the part of those who left, that they might soon meet you under favorable and as friendly circumstances as the present.

Respectfully your obt, servant and friend,

JEFFERSON HUNT,

Late Captain Commanding Mormon Battalion.

To Colonel J. D. Stevenson, Commanding Southern Military District of California.

Los Angeles, Cal., January 26, 1886.

Hon. H. H. Markham:

Sir—I learn that an effort will be made to procure the passage of an act by the present Congress, granting a pension to Col. J. D. Stevenson of San Francisco.

Colonel Stevenson commanded a regiment of New York Volunteers, which was raised at the commencement of the war with Mexico, for service in that war. He came to California with his regiment, and the military and civil service which he rendered the government during the war, and until mustered out of service at the close thereof, merit a higher reward than he has received, and fully entitle him to a pension during the remaining few years of his life.

Although not a Democrat, his services in the Mexican war, which was a Democratic measure, should entitle his claim for a pension to the support of a Democratic House of Representatives. I hope you will do what you can to secure the favorable action of Congress in the matter.

Respectfully yours,

J. J. WARNER.

Los Angeles, Cal., February 6th, 1886.

To the Honorable Members of Congress from California:

Gentlemen—I learn that Col. J. D. Stevenson, of San Francisco, may ask Congress to enact a special law granting him a pension for the military and civil service rendered by him during the Mexican war.

I was a resident of the Southern part of California during the

ARTO-TYPE. SCHMIDT LABEL & LITHO. CO. S. F.

VIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO IN 1886.

whole time in which Col. Stevenson was in the military and semi-political command of this part of California, the inhabitants of which were at that time, both socially and politically, in a disturbed and chaotic condition, and I willingly bear testimony to the wise and judicious exercise by him of his military and civil authority in the restoration of order and obedience to the laws by the inhabitants generally, and in my judgment his services were such as entitle him, not only to the kind remembrance of the people, but to a suitable recognition by the government in reward for such services as will enable him to pass his few remaining years in ease and comfort. Very respectfully, Your obedient servant,

——— J. J. WARNER.

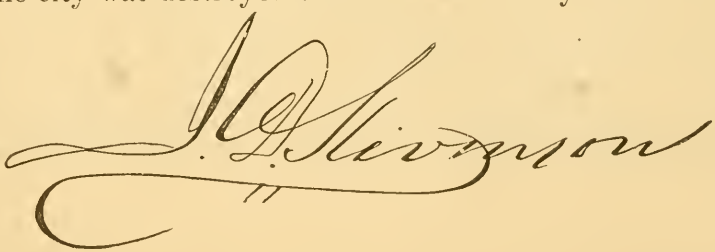
Although the following letters, the originals of which I have in my possession, may not be considered as having any bearing upon any claim I may have upon my Government for services rendered, I deem it proper that you should know the position and standing I occupied in the community, previous to my entering into the military service of the United States, and I am proud to refer you to the personal letters of the great men and statesmen of that period.

I deem it eminently proper to show at the end of my memorial the vast difference in the condition of California on the day of my arrival and taking possession on 6th March 1847, and 6th March, 1886.

On 6th March, 1847, there was neither Custom House or Tonnage Register office for vessels.

On 6th March, 1847, the day I took possession of the town of Yerba Buena, there were but 34 buildings and shelters of all kind and the number of its inhabitants did not exceed 250.

On 6th March, 1886, the number of buildings in the City of San Francisco was 40,000, and its inhabitants upward of 300,000, and the assessed value of the property was $195,000,000 and the registry of the outstanding tonnage at the Custom House on the 31st December, 1885, was 242,555.46, and the total number of vessels registered was 858 at that date. The whole of the business part of the city was destroyed three times in the years 1849–50–51.



[Private and Confidential.]

WASHINGTON, 13th Nov., 1840.

Dear Sir.—Your interesting letter of the 12th inst. has just been received. I regret to learn the indisposition of Mrs. Stevenson, and trust that time and reflection will reassure her health and spirits. There is *a power above that shapes our ends,* and that will *temper the mind to the shorn lamb;* and that power cannot but protect those who suffer under unjust calumny and persecution. Both of you will require firmness, and will find it in the end better, much, to stem a sea of troubles, than yield to them. Only one voice exists here among the friends of sound principles, towards you it is full of recommendation as to the motives which must have governed your career and of sympathy for the result to which it has exposed your character. But flinch not. Fear not. Keep cool—firm—faithful—and you and Mrs. S. will yet look back with joy rather than sorrow to your intrepidity, and in a final triumph will feel that it was good for you once to have been afflicted. I thank you sincerely for the commendation bestowed on my native State. You go, like you feel the cause; and instead of abandoning our principles in time of difficulty cling closer in the embrace of them. Truth is truth—whether in victory or defeat—and error will always perish in the end, however much for a time she may mislead and betray.

Respectfully,

LEVI WOODBURY.

COL. J. D STEVENSON,

New York City.

NEW YORK, 5th January, 1841.

The undersigned, citizens and residents of the city of New York, having heard various slanderous reports derogatory to the character of Jonathan D. Stevenson, of the said city, for truth and morality, have fully and fairly investigated the same, and have found them without any foundation in truth. We are therefore induced by a sense of justice to Mr. Stevenson to certify that his character for truth and morality was fully proved by many of our most respectable citizens, who have known him from an early age; and we take pleasure in stating that the whole result of the inves-

tigation was honorable to his integrity as a man, and his moral deportment as a citizen.

A. D. WYCROFF,
ROBERT R. WILLETS,
THOMAS HUNT,
GERARDUS BOYCE,
ROBERT B. BOYCE,
PHILIP PIETCH,
R. BUCHAR,
REV. C. HANCE,
S. A. LAURENCE,
M. C. DEEPRAT,
ROBERT STEAD,
JOHN DODGE,
A. C. BURR,
ASA LEWIS.
SYLVANUS S. WARE,

I concur in the same,
WM. E. BIRD.

I fully concur in the above,
RICH. TEN EYCK.

Albany, June 22d, 1841.

Dear Sir.—I learn with great regret that Mrs. Stevenson's afflictions are measured by an impression which has been made upon her mind, that I have expressed opinions unfavorable to your actions in regard to the detection of the Glentworth frauds. I regret this exceedingly, and am very desirous that she should be made sensible of her error in this respect. Far from entertaining such views of your conduct in this particular referred to, I have on the contrary always thought, and on any proper occasion have said, that it was in my judgment in the highest degree meritorious, and entitled you to the respect and friendship of anyone who pnts a proper value upon our political institutions.

I greatly deceive myself also, if the shrewd sense and fearless intrepidity which characterized your conduct, has not been the subject of admiration with thousands of your political opponents, as well as with the Democracy of the nation. You have my permission to show this to Mrs. Stevenson, who will, I hope, no longer suffer her peace of mind to be affected by such unfounded reports.

Very respectfully

your friend and obedient servant,
M. VAN BUREN.

To J. D. Stevenson, Esq.

I have been personally acquainted with Col. J. D. Stevenson for many years. I have always considered him a man of strict integrity and high honor. It affords me pleasure to say at this time, that his fair, honorable and manly deportment during the exposure of the Glentworth frauds, of 1838 and '39, sustained him through a course of persecution by his personal enemies unparalleled in the annals of judicial inquiry. His character underwent an ordeal as secret and as malicious as it is possible to conceive, and in my judgment an acknowledgement of his good character was wrung from them under circumstances that puts it beyond question.

The course pursued by him evinced an untiring zeal, high moral courage, and patriotic devotion. But few men are to be found willing to incur the like hazards. I consider him justly entitled to the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

J. R. WHITING.

New York, Jan'y 7, 1842.

I fully concur in the above,

ROBT. H. MORRIS.

Senate Chamber, Washington, 10 Feb., 1842.

My Dear Sir.—Your excellent letter of the 8th inst. came to me last night. I have but a moment to write and do that in my seat for fear I shall not be able to do it at all out of it. I thank you for the letter, and for the excellent tone and temper of it. To say that I regret the result in your case is to say nothing of what I feel. Yet your vote was a proud one, for it shows that you stood upon your own strength and the force of no scattering candidate had been leagued with in your case. If gratitude is not dead our folks will do something for you to give you bread while starving under political persecutions.

Two or three days ago Mr. Blair handed me a letter from Elizabeth to you, and I sent it under leave to you at Albany. I would write to the P. M. there to return it to you at New York, but I think you had better do it, as I do not like to ask even a civility from that benificiary of this administration.

I have nothing new to give you from here, but shall look anxiously for the letter you promise, giving me the view behind the curtain at Albany. Our mails have been so irregular that we did not get news when the Caucus was to be held until

last night, and then we got Thursday, Friday and Monday together but not Saturday; so that we have not yet seen the proceedings of the adjourned Caucus of Friday night.

In great haste.

I am truly yours,

Col. J. D. Stevenson. SILAS WRIGHT, Jr.

[Strictly Private.]

Washington, 5 April, 1842.

My Dear Sir.—Your letter of the 3d. came to me last evening, and I thank you for it. You will have seen a hasty letter which I wrote to you but a few days since, and will have thought strangely of it. I could not explain then more than I did, and it is only necessary now to say that I did not know that you were aware of the facts which you now state, or I could have told you why I did not wish that, for a time, you should speak of my letters, or purport to know my opinions. I was satisfied that persons had been purposely leading you into conversations, and perhaps discussions, for the very purpose of drawing from you the fact that we did correspond, as well as what they could learn of my views, and probably not being very well satisfied, others were turned upon me to see what could be gained in that way.

I have seen, I think, from the commencement the movement of which you speak, but have not been able exactly to embody its shape or measure its extent. Yet every day shows more of it to me, and the last few days has shown the Era either connected with it, or trying to be so. I learned earlier that the effort was making to connect Nicholas with the Era.

I have strong reasons to suspect that, in the end, Curtis will be found in that movement and his father-in-law Cramer with him. They may delude some honest men, but they will collect a fearful mass of rogues if they make the effort.

The movement to connect my name with that of Mr. Calhoun has been some time under consideration and partial action with his friends here and in portions of the South, and I have heard of it, and lately seen something of it, in that quarter. This was an object in many respects. The great purpose intended to be accomplished was and is to leave the influence everywhere, and to declare where it will do, that I am opposed to the nomination of Mr. Van Buren and am willing, by being a candidate for the Vice, to place

myself in direct opposition to him. I have been sounded very artfully by more than one individual, and my conversations have been so perfectly frank and entirely decisive, refusing to hear even the suggestion and declaring my readiness and determination, the moment I could find an opportunity, to declare publicly that I was not and would not be a candidate, that they have not dared to use my name very openly, and where it has been once or twice used by indiscreet editors at the South about as the *Times* used it a few days since, a check has been instantly put upon it from a quarter unknown to me, I doubt not from here. That will be the case with the *Times*, I presume. Indeed, you will soon learn, if you have not already, that the name of Mr. Woodbury is being very rapidly substituted for mine, though the clique in your city will be very desirous to take my name for a time, because they will desire very much to retain the appearance of as much New York interest as if they adhered to Mr. Van Buren.

Your letter will enable us to give Mr. Hoit a proper reception, whereas if he had come here without your explanation, some of our friends might have been imposed upon by him. You must not give letters to us when you have cause to suspect any such designs, unless you precede them by such explanations.

I am receiving very curious letters now a days, and really I was not aware that so many of my friends thought me so inardinately and foolishly ambitious. I am wanted as a candidate for President instantly. I am wanted dreadfully to run as Vice to Mr. C. And I am kindly assured that if Mr. V. B. is elected in 1844, I shall have to wait to 1856, where as otherwise I am sure in 1848. Well, now, all these things are disgustingly foolish, and yet they compel me to write a great many letters which require great care, and as I want to see how far this spirit of mischief exists in our own State, I am compelled to put restraint upon my friends so that they may not prevent the rogues from approaching me. My letters are uniform, and of course every one stops correspondence where it goes, and it will not be long before I shall have written so many that the whole thing will stop. If my friends hear of letters and it is pretended they use any other language than positive refusal, let them calmly, mildly, but firmly, ask a sight of the letters themselves.

In great haste.

Most truly yours,

SILAS WRIGHT, Jr.

Col. J. D. Stevenson.

[Private.]

WASHINGTON, 18 May, 1842.

My Dear Sir.—Your favor of the 16th came to me this morning. I have but a single moment to reply, and should not attempt it, but to answer a single point of your letter. I am not and cannot be a candidate for Governor, and so I have written to Hoffman and others a long time ago. It would take a very long letter to give you a very imperfect statement of my reasons, and I cannot attempt it now, but they are, controlling upon me, and satisfy me that the movement would not be a wise one, if I could consent to it. I do not want you to make this declaration a subject of unnecessary remark at all, and yet I want to have you advised, so that you may not give encouragement to an opposite idea. If an occasion arises you can say you have the strongest reasons for believing that I am not and cannot consent to be a candidate. Pardon this hasty note, and believe me,

most truly yours,

SILAS WRIGHT, JR.

COL. J. D. STEVENSON.

[Private.]

CANTON, 17 Oct , 1844.

My Dear Sir.—Your letter of the 12th reached me this morning. I thank you for it. I had hoped that the crisis, the peculiar dangers which all must see impend over the city, and the vital importance of carrying the Union would have induced the honest and worthy and influential members of our party to turn out this year, and take the lead in the nominating conventions. Nothing can so strongly invite and facilitate the coalitions which the Whigs wish to favor as unsatisfactory nominations.

Yet it does not become me to pass judgment, much less to complain of any person or class of friends. I suppose all have done what they have supposed to be their duty. From your account, however, I cannot but fear for the city and such an overturn there as has just been experienced in Philadelphia may overturn our State Electors, Legislature, and everything. The hope of it and *expectation* of it is felt here at this moment, and is exciting our Whigs to desperate exertions.

The only way you can guard yourselves at all against it in the city and in Brooklyn is by instant and perfect organization, and

careful lists of your voters. Stop the great meetings, and go to work man by man ; have every voter sure, and calmly conversed with, and find how he will vote. If this cannot be done, you will be sold out, cheated and beaten. If it can be done, you will check the effect of the coalitions, stop the pipe laying, and carry the city. *Burn this*, as it will not do for me to write or talk upon these subjects. In the greatest haste.

Truly yours.

SILAS WRIGHT.

Col. J. D. Stevenson.

[Strictly Private.]

Albany, 23 March, 1865.

My Dear Sir.—I have been a lazy man for a great number of years, but I have never known what it was to be uncontrollably so until I came into my present position. I do not read the one-half of the letters I receive from day to day, and none not relating to business, strictly official, at any other time than on Sundays. That day is by no means quietly mine, as I invariably get calls before church, between the services, and during the whole evening. Yet I have fallen upon a letter to-day which has come, at some time during the week, from our friend, J. D. Stevenson, asking me, in the most pressing terms, to write to him, or to the President, or to you, a letter which can be used to serve him in his application for the Naval Office, at New York. I find from his letter that I had mistaken the office for which he was applying, as I had had it constantly in my mind that it was the place of Surveyor, and I thought, when I saw the appointment of Purdy, that the place he sought was gone. Yet my mistake has caused no injury to him, except that I was induced to tell Moore that I should write no letter for anyone for the Naval Office, for which he wished a letter, and was angry because I could not give it, being under the impression, at the time, that he was not in conflict with Stevenson, to whom I said I would write a private letter on his behalf. I cannot now, in honor or in truth, do that for the Naval Office, because my word to Moore was very specifically given.

I will say to you, with great cheerfulness, that I consider Stevenson a warm and devoted friend to me, and to the Democratic party and its principles. I have known him quite intimately for

several years, and have corresponded with him a good deal during that time, and I have ever found him, in all my intercourse, strictly faithful to truth, perfectly honorable, and most ardently, I may almost say passionately, devoted to his friends.

His agency in exposing the Glentworth frauds was most characteristic of him, as he never appears to me to think of himself, when his friend or his party is in danger; and he has made many enemies by his defences of the former, while no man has made more numerous or bitter, or unforgiving enemies, than he did by that service to the latter. I have always thought and felt that his party has not treated him rightly since that affair, and has not sustained him as it should against the persecutions which these disclosures brought upon him. He has ever appeared to me to deserve, for that act, some respectable appointment, which would endorse his standing with his own party, and give to him and his family that comfortable living, of which he was deprived in consequence of the troubles thus brought upon him.

I am aware there are Democrats who entertain unfavorable opinions of him, but I have believed, and am compelled yet to believe, that they are either honest men whose minds have been poisoned by the bitter slanders against him, and who have not taken the pains to examine into their foundation, or those who are willing that he should fall under these slanders, because he may otherwise come in their way. These are the honest conclusions of my mind about the man from my opportunities of knowing him, and about the unfavorable opinions which prevail against him in the minds of members of our own party.

Some prejudice has been excited against him, because he adhered steadily to the renomination of Gov. Bouck during the last summer and fall. That should not injure him. He knew from myself that I did not want the nomination, and desired, beyond all things to avoid it, and Gov. Bouck had been a friend to him, and had given him an office, which he then held. His course in that matter, so far from injuring him, in my estimation, I considered the course he ought to take.

It has also been reported here that he has been acting, at Washington, with Foster, Cramer, & Co., since he has been there upon this occasion. This I do not believe, and his letters to me have held a different language altogether, but you will know how that is. That he favored the appointment of Geo. Marcey to the Cabinet, I do not doubt, for he has been a devoted friend of Geo. Marcey ever since I have known him; but that he did so from any bad motive I do not believe, and that I cannot say for the other persons I have named.

In conclusion, I should be glad to see Mr. Stevenson receive some respectable appointment, which would give a comfortable support to himself and family, and I believe he would be found honest and faithful in every trust confided to him, and that his talents, energy and business experience qualify him to discharge well the duties of such a situation.

This letter I wish you to read to Colonel Stevenson, as I cannot write to him, it being now nearly 2 o'clock A. M. If he desires you to do so, you may say to the President, *in Confidence*, that I cannot interfere as to this office, because I have declared I would not, but that my opinions of Colonel Stevenson are as I have here stated them. This is the most I can honorably do in answer to his request, and if this letter is read to him, it must be in the same confidence in which it is written to you, as it will bring imputations of dishonor upon me, if it is used or known.

I need not say that I should be very glad to write a very long letter to you, but that it cannot be done now. You must keep this yourself, and not sell the desk in which you keep it, if you do not destroy it at once.

I will ask you to remember me most kindly to Mrs. Blair and Mr. and Mrs. Lee, and to such of your sons as may be with you, and to believe I am,

Very truly yours,

SILAS WRIGHT.

F. P. Blair, Esq.

———

[Private.]

Washington, July 15th, '46.

Col. J. D. Stevenson.

Dear Sir.—I am indebted to you for several letters, and I have only time for a brief reply. The bouquet which you were so kind as to procure in N. Y. has arrived, and suits the taste of the lady of the mansion.

The dock of Brooklyn is, I fear, about to change hands as to management. The pressure here is hard upon Mr. B , and I think he will yield to it, though the step is not yet taken. I must refer you to the papers (not the letter-writers) for an account of what is doing in Congress.

I regret that the affair at Albany is not in a fair way of being composed. If nothing is done to quiet matters in our State, it is very clear that we shall be in great danger of losing our political ascendency. The business and the responsibility is with those

now at Albany. In the course of my political life I have seen dark periods in our party affairs, yet the gloom has usually passed off, and all has again become bright and fair.

If the Printer question could be satisfactorily disposed of, a good beginning would be made for restoring harmony and securing united action in our future movements. As it is the most important, so it is the most difficult step in the whole business.

I read the Gov's Message, and was well pleased with it. It is an able paper.

I am broken off, and cannot write more without losing a mail.

Yours respectfully,

W. L. MARCEY.

BALTIMORE, 10 April, 1845.

To His Excellency, James K. Polk,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Sir.—The undersigned Democratic citizens of Baltimore, have been apprised that Colonel J. D. Stevenson of New York will be an applicant for the situation of Naval Officer for the Port of New York; and although under ordinary circumstances it might subject us to the charge of treading on forbidden ground to interfere in the selection of Government agents not located in the State of Maryland, yet, connected as Mr. Stevenson has been, under peculiar and trying circumstances, with the Democratic property of Baltimore, we have deemed it justifiable to express our sincere hope that the gentleman referred to may meet with your favorable consideration.

It is not our purpose to speak of the character or qualifications of Mr. S or of his services in the great Republican cause, because they are known and appreciated by the citizens of New York; but with pleasure refer to his services in behalf of the Democracy of Baltimore.

It is doubtless known to you that a conspiracy was in embryo in 1840 to pollute the ballot-box and defeat the popular will in the city of Baltimore, by the introduction into the city of six hundred voters from the city of Philadelphia. This base and infamous plot was arrested through the keen sagacity and firmness of Colonel Stevenson, by his bringing to light a letter written by Madison Jeffers of Baltimore to George Riston of Philadelphia. Through his instrumentality this notorious letter was obtained and the foul conspiracy balked of its purpose.

This act, done at the hazard of his reputation and even of his life, has endeared him to the Democracy of Baltimore, and they would be guilty of ingratitude should they withhold any aid which might be exercised to promote his success. It shows, also. that Colonel Stevenson's patriotism is not confined to the atmosphere here or of the Empire State, but covers the broadest expanse.

That patriotism has made him the victim of the vilest persecution; persecution that has visited his domestic hearth, and crushed the devoted heart of the partner of his bosom.

Can we be intruders who volunteer our testimony in behalf of such a man? We believe that you will not so consider us.

We believe that the country is bound in gratitude and in justice to the great cause of civil liberty, to protect those who suffer proscription for that country; and viewing the case of Colonel Stevenson as one strongly in point, we in the most respectful manner pray that you may honor him with the appointment he solicits.

This communication is made without the knowledge or solicitation of Colonel S. or any of his friends not residents of this city; but being members of a committee from the Democracy of Baltimore, recently on a visit to New York City in charge of a Banner which we presented to the Democracy of the latter city, we learned that that gentleman was an applicant for the office referred to, and felt that it was due to him to render him our feeble aid.

With high regard,

Your friends and servants,

JOSHUA VANSANT.
FRANCIS GALLAGHER.

Among the numerous gentlemen with whom I have had the pleasure to associate during my political life, I know no one more truly deserving than Colonel Stevenson. To me it would afford the greatest pleasure to see his principles and constancy fully appreciated, and I do most earnestly hope the Government will in some way manifest its approbation of the moral and political excellence of this gentleman.

WM. L. PRESTON.

Baltimore, 24 April, 1845.

New York, September 20, 1831.

The undersigned has been for fourteen years past well acquainted with Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson (son of the late Matthew Ste-

venson), of this city, and takes great pleasure in bearing full testimony of his uniform, correct, honorable and gentlemanly deportment, and good conduct.

Colonel Stevenson was private secretary to the late lamented Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, and was high in his favor and confidence.

R. RIKER,
Recorder of the City of New York.

Having known Colonel Stevenson whilst he was Secretary of Governor Tompkins, I concur with great pleasure in the foregoing testimonial of his standing and character.

New York, Sept. 21, 1831.

WALTER BROWN,
Mayor of the City of New York.

M. M. NOAH,
Surveyor of the Port.

C. C. CAMBRELLING,
M. C. from City of New York.

City and County of New York:

I, Charles W. Sandford, a Commissioner appointed under the Great Seal of the State of New York, to take the proof and acknowledgement of deeds, affidavits, &c., do certify, that I am personally acquainted with Walter Brown, Mayor of the City of New York; Richard Riker, Recorder of said city; M. M. Noah, Surveyor of the Port of New York; Churchill C. Cambrelling, one of the Members of Congress from the City of New York, and the signatures attached to the foregoing certificates, are in their own respective hands writing.

New York, Sept. 21, 1831.

CHAS. W. SANDFORD,
Commissioner of Deeds, &c., New York.

Albany, Oct. 24th, 1880.

Dear Sir.—I have received your letter of the 23d. I have sent an express to Buffalo with 3,000 or 4,000 of the expose brought up from New York. We consider here that you are fortified and sustained most triumphantly at every point.

Truly yours.

A. C. FLAGG.

J. D. Stevenson, New York :

We shall get out an extra Rough Hewer, with a short address from the State Committee, and print 50,000 copies.

New York, July, 14th 1841.

J. D. Stevenson, Esq :

Dear Sir—Having learned from you in our conversation a few days since, that the course of defence on the Glentworth trial had left on the minds of some of your friends, the imputation, unqualifiedly, of perjury on your part, I feel it to be due to you to say, that so far as any remarks of mine to the jury are concerned, such imputation is unjust towards you. In placing before the jury the contradiction between your testimony and that of Mayor Swift, which the duty of the defendant's counsel required, my object, and that of my associate counsel, was to leave to them the question of creditability between yourself and the gentleman alone, and I should greatly regret that any wider scope should be attributed to the line of defence adopted, at least so far as I am concerned.

Very respectfully yours,

D. GRAHAM, Jr.

New York, Nov. 11th, 1841.

The undersigned, formerly of the General Staff under the administration of Governor Marcy, as Commander-in-Chief, takes great pleasure in bearing testimony to the character of Colonel J. D. Stevenson. During a long period of service, Colonel Stevenson maintained the reputation of an accomplished and efficient officer, and we esteem him eminently qualified by his experience, industry and energy to discharge the duties of Commissary General in a manner to serve the interest of the State.

ALLAN MACDONALD,
Late Adjutant General.
CAMPBELL P. WHITE,
Late Quartermaster General.
PROSPER M. WETMORE,
Late Paymaster General.
RICHARD PENNELL, M. D.,
Late Surgeon General.
W. H. WARREN,
Late Aid-de-Camp.

I concur in opinion as to character and qualifications of Colonel Stevenson.

W. L. MARCY.

New York, January 8, 1842.

Dear Sir.—It affords me pleasure to bear witness to your services and your qualifications for the office of Commissary General.

Independent of my knowledge of your political course for the last ten years, during all of which you have shown yourself to be a true and ardent supporter of the cause of democracy, I find in your conduct and sufferings, in regard to the Glentworth business, all that is necessary to commend you to the support of our friends.

To you, more than any other man, are we indebted for the disclosure of the astounding frauds which polluted our elections in 1838 and 1839, which disclosure has done more than any other event for some years to purify the ballot-box. But for your firmness and noble disregard of personal consequences this great good would not have been done, and, in view of all that you have endured by reason of your intrepid conduct, I cannot but feel that you are entitled to substantial marks of the gratitude of the Democratic party.

Be the result of your application, however, what it may, of one gratification you cannot be deprived, that of knowing that your character has come out entirely pure from as searching and bitter a scrutiny as could be devised.

Very truly yours,

Col. J. D Stevenson, Esq.

J. W. EDMONDS.

C Street, March 12th, 1845.

Colonel Stevenson:

I never interfere in appointments in other States than my own, which rule of long standing put it out of my power to give you a letter to the President, but I am free to say to you that my acquaintance with you, dating back to near the time when you were so intimately associated with the Vice-President, Tompkins, and continued down through your friendship and intimacy with Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Wright, enables me to class you both personally and politically with the most esteemed members of our party, and I sincerely wish you success in all your objects.

Yours truly,

THOS. H. BENTON.

WASHINGTON CITY, 14 March, 1845.

My Dear Sir.—The President has not appointed my friend J. D. Stevenson, Surveyor, etc., of New York, as I had hoped he would have done. I felt a great solicitude for S's success, because he is worthy, needy, and has claims upon the Democratic party of no ordinary character, and I know him to be eminently qualified for such a place. I would address the President *directly* upon the subject, but I really fear that in the midst of his higher engagements he might overlook this matter, and therefore I request you to communicate with him, if I do not see him before I leave and after the Senate adjourns, and to nominate *Mr. Stevenson* to him for the office of *Naval Officer* in New York City.

You know Mr. S., and I am sure you will not decline this service. The President may *think*, if he does not *ask*, why I should be so officious in a matter out of my own State. The answer need not be made if he knew Mr. S. and his history, and if he was informed how a good man, with an interesting family, has been persecuted and ruined in his private fortunes for his fearlessness in exposing the *great frauds of 1840!* Were he not qualified in every sense for the office, I would not recommend his appointment as a compensation for any past sacrifice. But he is as well fitted for the office as any man. He possesses the confidence of the first in New York. He has been brought up a merchant, and knows the duties of the place now asked for as well as any man can, and in addition to all this, let me say, not as a recommendation for Mr. S., but as an apology for my importunity, that he is my friend, and therefore I urge his claims upon the appointing power.

The Senators from New York (I speak positively as far as concerning Mr. Dix) concur in my application.

Will you, therefore, do me the favor to hand this note to the President, and he will, I have no doubt, do what he thinks is right.

In respect to Mr. S's politics, I can only say, that they *were the same as my own* during the last contest and now.

I have the honor to be, yours, etc.,

WM. H. HAYWOOD, JR.

To F. P. BLAIR, ESQ.

WASHINGTON, 17 March, 1845.

It gives me pleasure to state that I formed an acquaintance with J. D. Stevenson, Esq., of New York, some years since, and I have always regarded him as sound in political principles, courte-

ous in manners, and intelligent and gentlemanly in society. The party persecutions that appears to have visited him after our first acquaintance has, in my view, strengthened rather than impaired, his claim to public favor.

LEVI WOODBURY.

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1845.

MR. STEVENSON:

In answer to your communication to me, I state with pleasure that during the time I was Secretary of the Treasury I had frequent conversations with you on matters of business and commercial transactions, imports and exports, and exchanges, from which I am well satisfied of your capacity for business and such comprehension of the laws of the United States, in respect to duties and imports and tonnage, as would well befit you for the employment of Surveyor or Naval Officer.

With great respect, yours, etc.,

GEO. M. BIBB.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1845.

TO HIS EXC'Y JAS. K. POLK:

Sir.—I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the standing and character of Colonel J. D. Stevenson of the city of New York, and to his eminent services to the Democratic party. I have been long acquainted with Colonel Stevenson, who is my friend and neighbor, and from that acquaintance I have no hesitation in saying that a more active and devoted Democrat, and one who has suffered more for his attachment to his political principles, does not exist. Like many others who have been actively engaged in the political struggles of the day, he has been assailed with great virulence by his political opponents, and by those nominally acting with the Democratic party, whose disorganizing spirit and tendencies he has ever very freely commented upon and exposed. I believe that whatever misrepresentation and opposition he has been compelled to encounter has arisen from this cause, and to which a man less resolute and devoted to the best interests of the Democratic party and to the supremacy of its principles would not have been subjected. He is a man of great industry and capacity, and whatever may be asserted to the contrary his appointment to any

post, to the fulfillment of the duties of which your Excellency might deem him adequate, would be an expression of confidence well reposed, conferred upon a most deserving citizen, and give satisfaction to the community generally, and would be eminently conducive to the permanent interests of the Democratic party in the city of New York.

Very respectfully,

Your most obediant servant,

W. B. MACLAY.

P. S.—The office to which Colonel Stevenson makes application is that of Naval Officer, for the discharge of the duties of which he is particularly well qualified, and I take pleasure in recommending him therefor.

W. B. MACLAY,

M. C. from New York.

WASHINGTON, 12th March, '46.

My Dear Sir.—I received your letter several days since, but could not find time before now to acknowledge it. You mentioned that you had sent some papers, but I do not think they got here. Being interested in the course of things at Albany, I have casually looked at the debates in the *Argus*, particularly those on the printing bills, and my attention was drawn in an especial manner to the part you took in them, and indeed in the other proceedings. I am free to declare that you have greatly exceeded my expectations, and have taken a good standing at once among the debaters in the House. This is very rarely the case with those who have not had experience in public speaking. Your argument on the printing bill appeared to me to be sound, forcible, and to the point; but talent at a ready and prompt reply was the more surprising, because it is the more difficult faculty. I think I have reason to be satisfied—your friends certainly are—at your position as a Legislator. Though not much surprised at, yet I regret the scism in our party in New York. I early saw the potent principles and used my best endeavors before I left Albany—indeed three years ago—to check its operations, but my labors were not seconded in quarters where they ought to have been, nor were they properly appreciated, I repeat, though I regret the present state of things I cannot reproach myself with having omitted anything to prevent it.

Shall we have a Democratic convention? They have not seconded the President as they ought to have done. As I shall have the pleasure of seeing you, as I trust, here in a few weeks, we shall then have an opportunity of talking thinks over in a familiar way.

Yours truly,

W. L. MARCY.

COL. J. D. STEVENSON. ———

ALBANY, June 24th, '49.

My Dear Col.—I suppose you regard me as a very negligent correspondent, and so far as you are concerned, so in truth I am. My important engagements at Washington obliged me to forego nearly all private correspondence, and until recently I concluded you would return home when your term of military service ended, and I did not write because I supposed you would get here before a letter would reach California. * * * * * * I was much pleased with a copy of the Col.'s (Mason) letter to you at the close of your military service. No better evidence could be afforded to justify the selection which was made of a commander of the volunteer regiment. * * * *

Awful changes are here taking place, and some of the most melancholy are the work of death. The recent announcement of the death of Pres. Polk is the most afflicting of any which went before it. The death of Worth also broke upon us very suddenly. He was a noble soldier, and a great loss to the country. * * * * I was deeply afflicted at the death of General Kearney. * * * Things are strangely changed here since you left. The divisions in the Democratic party have transferred the State entirely to the Whigs, and the prospect of recovering it from their hands is not at present very flattering. To the same cause the loss of the Presidential election may be truly ascribed. * * * * *

Yours truly,

W. L. MARCY.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 017 137 896 5